



ANKUR MEHTA—THE TECH
Ig Nobel Awards feature improbable research. See story page 16.

Davis Stresses Environment, Housing

By Frank Dabek
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Henrietta Davis is a three term incumbent councilwoman running on the progressive Cambridge Civic Association slate. Davis' campaign focuses on managing develop-

ment to maintain the character of Cambridge, protecting the environment, and guaranteeing affordable housing.

As Chair of the Traffic and Transportation Committee of the Cambridge City Council Davis has worked to protect the environment by encouraging alternative means of transportation, such as bicycles and shuttle buses. Davis would "like to see shuttles like MIT shuttles but open to the public."

In addition, Davis said that she is "very supportive of increasing safe

transportation in the late hours" in Cambridge. Late night transportation is a plank of fellow CCA candidate Erik C. Snowberg '99.

Development in Cambridge, especially in the Central Square area, has been a hot button issue in this campaign. Davis says that she is interested in keeping "Central Square a vibrant community square."

She hopes to bring more people and shopping to the area, especially more "value oriented stores." She characterized Marshall's and the Mass. Army Navy stores as a "good match" for the square. Davis is not opposed to the Gap store which is planned for the Central Square area. The "Save Central Square" group is actively fighting the construction of the store.

Davis also supports the creation of a new public library somewhere near the central square area, and hopes for MIT's assistance in build-

MIT Card Upgrades Lead To Expansion

Laverde's, LSC, May Accept Card in Future

By Dana Levine

The Campus Activities Complex recently announced a round of upgrades to improve and broaden the scope of the MIT card system.

A new MIT card computer system was installed by Diebold Corporation this summer, at a cost of \$297,000, said Peter Cummings, CAC Business Manager. The system includes a new central server and new cash registers at MIT dining facilities.

There were several reasons for the installation of the new system, the foremost being that the old system wasn't year 2000 compliant, Cummings said. Additionally, the old system was being used to capacity, and was no longer supported by its manufacturer.

The declining balance system provided by the MIT card is supervised by the Office on Campus Dining. This allows organizations to receive money from a student's account after accepting the MIT card as payment.

"We're trying to expand the use of the card to student groups," said Richard Berlin, Director of the Office of Campus Dining.

Cummings said that the MIT coffeehouse currently does 45 percent of their business through the MIT card. "Our goal is to get as many services on campus as possible on the card. It would be nice to reduce the amount of cash on campus," he said.

"While we don't create policy per se, if the business proposal goes through the right places, we make it happen," said MIT Card Office Director Lawrence Maguire.

Upgrade expands card use

The new system allows for much greater upgradeability and will allow for additional groups' use of the MIT card. These groups may include student groups such as the Lecture Series Committee and on-campus businesses such as LaVerde's, Cummings said.

"We've been trying to get the MIT card for 10 years," said LaVerde's store manager Mark Semon. "It's frustrating. Each year we get new students in, and they want to use the MIT card. We speak to [CAC Director] Phil Walsh every year, and each year he tells us that it's getting closer and closer."

There are, however, some logistical concerns that need to be worked out before putting LaVerde's and other on-campus

ing the library.

MIT has to be best citizen

"MIT has to be [Cambridge's] best corporate citizen," Davis said. The Institute should be "looking out for the interest of the community" as well as its own.

She called on MIT to "share its intellectual resources" with the city and become involved in providing affordable housing. The Institute has constructed housing in the past and should do so again, she said.

Other construction, such as the planned undergraduate dormitory on Vassar street, should be planned with the city in mind, she said. The dorm in particular should not be built in such a way that it is visually appealing only when viewed from campus. In addition MIT should provide open spaces on its campus

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CPs Vote No Confidence In Institute

By Mike Hall
STAFF REPORTER

The MIT Campus Police Association voted a unanimous "no confidence" in the MIT police management, signifying a further degradation in relations between the Association and the Institute.

In a press release issued last Thursday, the Association characterized the police department's managerial style as "negative and obstructive." The Association also stated that "instead of trying to facilitate the officers' jobs, management seems determined to demean and deride officers in the performance of their important public safety functions."

The MIT Campus Police have worked for over a year now without a contract with MIT. The Association's vote addressed key issues in the conflict, such as involuntary overtime, proper recognition of police officers' EMT skills, and funding for continuing education.

David Achenbach, manager of labor relations for the Institute, stated that the Association's vote will not alter the Institute's approach to negotiations. The Institute's goal, Achenbach said, is still to reach an agreement "that is in the best interests of the officers and MIT."

The no confidence vote is the latest salvo in the fifteen-month battle between the Association and the Institute. The two sides are far from agreement, raising the spectre of an Association strike. Since the MIT Campus Police are private-sector employees, a labor stoppage is legal.

Achenbach downplayed the possibility of a strike, stating that "MIT is focused on trying to reach a settlement through negotiations."

Despite Loss, Domecoming Successfully Returns to MIT

By Naveen Sunkavally
NEWS EDITOR

The Institute's first homecoming festivities in several years had its ups and downs — a large crowd packed the stands to watch the Engineers' close loss to Curry College but poor advertising led to scant attendance at other events.

In Saturday's football game, Curry College quarterback Steve Santos ran in a touchdown in the last quarter to cap a 17-14 come-from-behind victory. In its final possession, MIT converted two fourth-down plays but could not set itself up for a potentially game-tying field goal or game-winning touchdown.

"It's a very competitive conference... all of our players displayed great heart on Saturday... A few key mistakes on our part at crucial

times were the determining factors," said MIT Head Football Coach Dwight E. Smith. "The team would like to thank the crowd for the great support that was shown during the game."

Puja Gupta '00, a homecoming organizer, said the game featured "the best attendance of the season so far." During halftime, the pom-pom squad performed, and MIT's marching band performed a rendition of Carlos Santana's "Evil Ways."

Advertising seen as key in future

Other events among the homecoming festivities were less well-attended. About 200 people came to Friday night's Alley Rally, where students could eat cotton candy,

Domecoming, Page 25



CINDY VONGVANITH
Running back Enrique Villavicencio '00 charges toward the goal line during Saturday's Domecoming game against Curry College. MIT lost 14-17.



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of UROP

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Buzz Aldrin advocates corporate involvement to fund Martian missions and discusses technical issues of manned missions.

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WORLD & NATION

Tax Credits to Aid Parochial Schools

THE BALTIMORE SUN

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court cleared the way Monday for states to grant tax credits as a way of channeling money to parochial schools without a direct public subsidy.

Without comment, the court turned aside an Arizona case that has been watched closely for signals of the court's current view of parochial school aid, and perhaps for a hint of what the court might do on school vouchers.

In another significant school case, from Tennessee, the court refused to protect public school teachers from having to take a drug test, even when there is no evidence of drug abuse among a school's faculty.

Though the court has upheld drug testing programs for students, this was the first time it has faced a challenge to compulsory drug screening for teachers.

The court took those actions on opening day of a new term. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who underwent colon cancer surgery 17 days ago, surprised observers by taking her seat on the bench and participating actively through two hours of hearings.

NATO-led Peacekeepers in Kosovo Grow Increasingly More Frustrated

LOS ANGELES TIMES

KOSOVO POLJE, YUGOSLAVIA

NATO-led peacekeepers in Kosovo displayed deepening frustration Monday with recalcitrant Serbs and ethnic Albanians who have nearly shut down the province's main east-west route for over a week.

Canadian Maj. Roland Lavoie, a spokesman for the NATO-led KFOR troops, warned that peacekeepers had given the protesters ample time to resolve their problems and indicated that soldiers might remove barricades that have choked the flow of people and supplies across Kosovo.

"KFOR fully accepts that peaceful protests are an integral part of democratic society," Lavoie said. "However, we cannot let a minority continually disrupt the daily lives of the majority."

Lavoie issued no timetable but hinted that peacekeepers will not tolerate the blockades much longer.

"If they persist in their disruptive behavior, KFOR will have to take appropriate action to restore freedom of movement throughout Kosovo," he said.

Medical Advances Give Nuclear Workers a Chance to Survive

LOS ANGELES TIMES

TOKYO

Advances in medical treatment for radiation victims give hope that one or more of three workers irradiated last week in Japan's worst civilian nuclear disaster could survive, doctors said Monday.

Two of the men received more than lethal doses of radiation Thursday after being bombarded with neutrons during an uncontrolled nuclear fission reaction at a uranium processing plant, and they remained critically ill Monday. But their condition was stable enough that doctors announced plans to give them both transfusions of bone marrow cells using new, non-invasive techniques pioneered on cancer patients.

Both Hisashi Ouchi, 35, and Masato Shinohara, 39, were continuing to suffer from a disastrous decrease in their ability to produce blood cells, among other problems. But in an improvement on traditional bone marrow transplants, which were tried with little success on victims of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident, Japanese doctors planned to give Shinohara a transfusion of blood cells from the umbilical cord of a newborn, a technique that avoids the rejection problems common with bone marrow transplants.

Russia To Resettle Refugees In Divided Chechen Republic

By Sharon LaFraniere
THE WASHINGTON POST

MOSCOW

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said Monday that Russia intends to resettle tens of thousands of Chechen refugees in parts of Chechnya controlled by Russian troops — the strongest indication to date that Moscow intends to split the small republic in two.

Putin made the comments as Russian troops battled Chechen fighters 25 miles north of Chechnya's capital of Grozny. Chechen military sources reported heavy fighting as Russian troops pressed to control flat terrain along the Terek River and to drive the Chechens toward mountains to the south.

Putin's plan would create a new order in Chechnya, with Russian troops protecting refugees in part of the republic, apparently in the north. The rest of the republic would remain under separatist Chechen control. Although Moscow has not acknowledged it, Chechnya effectively won independence from Russia three years ago after a war that has been described as one of President Boris Yeltsin's biggest mistakes.

The refugees to be resettled would be among the more than 100,000 Chechens who have fled Russian air attacks that have destroyed oil depots, power stations, roads, bridges, and farmhouses and cornfields in border villages.

Most of the refugees have ended up in the neighboring Russian republic of Ingushetia, west of Chechnya, creating what Knut Vollebaek, chairman of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Monday called "a severe situation."

Earlier, Russian leaders suggested their current military offensive aimed to create a buffer zone to block infiltration of guerrillas from Chechnya into other Russian republics, and to hunt down Chechen-based militants whom Putin blames for terrorist bombings in Moscow and elsewhere that killed nearly 300 people. Chechen guerrillas recently staged incursions into the neighboring republic of Dagestan, seeking to create an Islamic state.

The Russian Tass news agency quoted Lt. Gen. Gennady Troshev Monday as saying Russia had succeeded in forming a security zone adjoining Chechnya, as ordered by

Putin. Troshev said two Russian soldiers were killed and seven wounded in clashes Sunday.

Another military official denied reports of heavy ground fighting close to Grozny Monday. "Russian units do not join battles. The rebel bases are being shelled and bombed from the air," he said.

A spokesman for Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov suggested Russian troops had suffered more serious losses than Moscow was willing to admit. He said the Chechen guerrillas had destroyed a tank and several armored personnel carriers in skirmishes that had killed three Chechens and wounded seven others. Chechen military sources also said a Chechen missile shot down a Russian warplane in eastern Chechnya, killing a pilot.

Maskhadov does not control the rebels, and Putin said last week that Russia does not recognize Maskhadov's government as legitimate. Monday, Maskhadov's aides said he still hopes to negotiate with Moscow, although the Russian media are portraying him as closer and closer to the guerrillas.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitri Yakushkin said Yeltsin had personally approved the military action.

Illinois Jury Levies \$456M Fine Against Auto Insurance Firm

By Davan Maharaj
LOS ANGELES TIMES

In a major setback for the auto insurance industry, an Illinois jury Monday ordered the nation's largest car insurer to pay \$456 million for allegedly cheating millions of customers by ordering body shops to fix their cars with low-cost generic replacement parts.

The award against State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co. could grow even larger if the judge in the case grants lawyers' request for an additional \$4 billion to satisfy fraud claims. The judge is expected to rule later this week.

The trial is being closely watched by plaintiffs' attorneys, government regulators and consumer activists who during the last decade have challenged the auto

insurance industry's preference for so-called aftermarket parts to repair damaged vehicles.

Many car owners say installing generic parts does not restore their vehicles to pre-loss conditions after accidents, which hurts the resale value. Others have claimed in lawsuits that aftermarket parts often look shabby, perform poorly and fail to meet manufacturers' safety standards, thereby increasing the risks of injuries to passengers.

State Farm, which argues that generic replacement parts are not substandard and save consumers money, vowed to appeal.

"We consider this a major setback for our policyholders," said Bill Sirola, a State Farm spokesman. "If this verdict is allowed to stand, automakers will have monopoly

power to price their parts at whatever price they want. The cost of repairs going up will lead to higher premiums."

State Farm, which has 37 million policyholders, insures one out of every five vehicles on the road.

If the award against State Farm remains intact, analysts and insurance groups say consumers can expect to see their insurance premiums rise in the next few years.

"If our society requires insurers to use (factory original parts), then society will be required to pay the difference in cost," said Harry Fong, an analyst with Deutsche Bank in New York.

The Illinois case was the first to go to trial, but Monday's verdict by the Marion, Ill., jury could bolster more than a dozen pending lawsuits.

WEATHER

Seasonal Foreshadowing

By Greg Lawson
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Persistent northerly flow due to a weak quasi-stationary low right over southeastern Massachusetts brought cold Canadian air southward yesterday, helping the temperatures drop much more quickly than expected. At 6 p.m. temps were 10 degrees cooler than had been forecasted for that time the day before. The low and its associated front and rain will have passed out to sea by the time this forecast is available, leaving us in a dry, chilly air mass. Expect the skies this afternoon to remain partly to mostly cloudy, finally clearing as the weather gives way to a building high over the Ohio Valley.

Temperatures will be kept well below normal values for this time of year. It should slowly warm up as the high settles in with tonight being a bit warmer than last night and tomorrow coming within five degrees of normal. Normal high is 67°F (20°C) and low is 50°F (10°C). However, another surge of cold northern air should arrive sometime Wednesday night or Thursday morning and cool things off yet again; this time we should stay dry though. The outlook is a return to normalcy by the weekend.

Today: Mostly to partly cloudy skies clearing mid to late afternoon. Cool with a high of only 50°F (10°C).

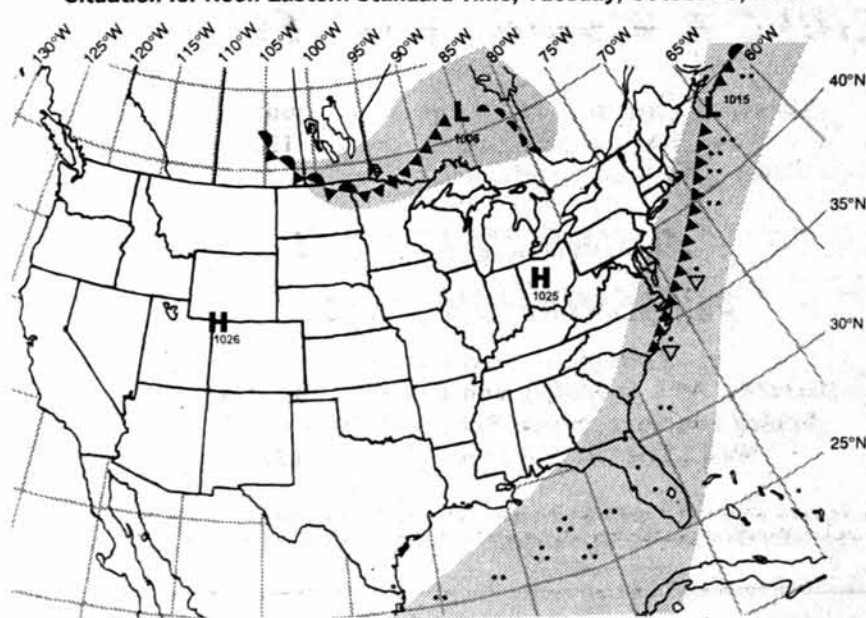
Tonight: Cool and clear. Low of 44°F (7°C).

Tomorrow: Clear with clouds forming in early evening. Warmer with a high of 62°F (17°C) and a nighttime low in the upper 30s (3 to 5°C).

Thursday: Cloudy then clearing. Highs in the mid 50s (12 to 14°C). Nighttime lows again in the upper 30s (3 to 5°C).

Friday Outlook: Still unseasonably cool, but warming. Look for a pleasant holiday weekend.

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, October 5, 1999



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow	Fog
L Low Pressure	- - - Warm Front	Light	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front	Moderate	Haze
	▲▲▲ Occluded Front	Heavy	

Compiled by MIT
Meteorology Staff
and The Tech

Bradley's Labor Leader Lobby May Delay Gore's Endorsement

By Thomas B. Edsall
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Bill Bradley's furious effort to lobby leaders of organized labor has cast doubt on what had been the near-certain AFL-CIO endorsement of Vice President Al Gore's presidential bid next week.

Bradley, boosted by the success of his campaign, has persuaded leaders of some of the biggest unions in the AFL-CIO to press for a delay of the endorsement.

These dissenting unions do not have enough votes to block an endorsement, according to numerous sources in labor, but they are influential enough to give AFL-CIO President John Sweeney serious pause as he decides whether to press the matter on Oct. 14.

The odds remain in Gore's favor and a solid majority of the 68-member unions in the labor federation

are prepared to back his bid for the Democratic nomination, some very strongly, according to these sources.

"We are going through the process," said Sweeney, who wants to endorse Gore but wants it to be as much of a consensus decision as possible. "I hear very, very few who are pushing for Bradley," he said, adding, however, "there are some people who think we should take a little longer."

Until Oct. 14, when Sweeney has to decide whether to bring up the endorsement, union leaders will meet every morning to hash through the dispute.

The dilemma for Sweeney and other Gore backers is that they know that postponing the decision to endorse would be viewed as a major blow to Gore. At the same time, pushing an endorsement through over objections of key unions would be, in the words of

one union leader, "a paper endorsement," lacking enthusiasm.

While acknowledging the union endorsement at this time would be a major boost to a campaign that has suffered a number of setbacks lately, Gore officials note that even if the AFL-CIO does not come through next week, Gore has received the backing of many national unions and their local affiliates. The state branches of the United Auto Workers and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, have, for example, endorsed Gore.

Both Gore and Bradley have been aggressively lobbying labor. Last week, top officials of both campaigns met separately with union leaders here at the Hay-Adams Hotel. The purpose of the sessions was to present each campaign's strategy to win the nomination as well as the general election.

Death Row Case Leads Agenda For Supreme Court's New Term

By Joan Biskupic
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court opened its 1999-2000 term Monday, hearing a Virginia death row case that may affect inmates who challenge the constitutionality of their sentences.

In a day marked by ceremony and the surprising appearance on the bench of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the court also disposed of some 1,700 appeals filed during its summer recess.

Among the most closely watched cases, the justices allowed a Tennessee school district to continue drug-testing for prospective teachers and spurned an appeal of an Arizona policy allowing tax credits for people who donate scholarship money to religious schools — an order likely to inflame the

debate regarding public aid to parochial schools. The court also denied a death sentence appeal in the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, a former radio reporter and commentator convicted of killing a Philadelphia policeman in 1981.

The first order of business after the pounding of the opening gavel was oral arguments on the appeal of Terry Williams, who was convicted in the 1985 slaying of an elderly Danville man and has been on Virginia's death row for 13 years, the longest of any current inmate. His case offers the justices a major opportunity to interpret a 1996 federal law intended to limit appeals by condemned prisoners. The overriding question is how much deference federal judges must give to state court opinions of inmates' claims.

After his conviction, Williams

argued that his trial lawyer was incompetent and failed to develop evidence that would have persuaded the jury against giving him the death sentence, including information about Williams's troubled childhood, low intelligence and other mitigating factors. On appeal, family members testified about the abuse Williams endured as a child, including his being tied naked to a bed post and beaten by his father. The Virginia Supreme Court ultimately concluded, however, that even if his lawyer wrongly failed to put up such evidence, the omission did not seriously hurt Williams and the death sentence was "not fundamentally unfair or unreliable."

Williams then challenged the sentence in federal court, based on his constitutional right to effective assistance of counsel at trial.

Microbes Might Survive in Space

THE WASHINGTON POST

Microbiologist Rocco Mancinelli was at work in tidal flats along the coast of Baja California Sur one day about seven years ago when his research team noticed some interesting hummocks of dried-out, crusted salt. Mancinelli used a hammer to break one open and found inside a green stripe that turned out to be a thriving colony of microorganisms.

Salt is so hostile to most life forms that people have used it for centuries as a preservative. The thought occurred to Mancinelli that the little green salt-lovers, as well as some red ones discovered in a nearby salt company pond gone "bad," would make ideal candidates for exposure to an even more hostile environment — space.

On Sept. 23, 80 samples of the red and green Mexican microbes (species from the archaea genus Halorcula and the bacteria genus Synechococcus) returned from the third in a series of flights into space as part of the European Space Agency's Biopan experiment. Evidence from the flights, launched on Russian Foton rockets, as well as extensive ground experiments, indicate that, indeed, the microbes are in a minuscule minority of known life forms capable of surviving prolonged exposure to the vacuum of space.

The study of organisms is of more than frivolous interest: it bears on theories about the cosmic pathways that life might follow, such as the possibility that it arose elsewhere and traveled to Earth in chunks of rubble. The topic has taken on added urgency for those who work in the exotic field of planetary protection — that is, preventing biological contamination of Earth by other planets and vice versa.

National Mental Illness Screening Project Offers Resources to Masses

LOS ANGELES TIMES

All across the country Thursday, anyone who feels that they or a loved one may be depressed or has suicidal thoughts can get help — anonymously, confidentially and free of charge.

The ninth annual National Depression Screening Day will take place that day throughout the nation. The event is coordinated by the National Mental Illness Screening Project, a nonprofit organization based in Wellesley, Mass. Other sponsors of the effort include the National Institute of Mental Health, the American Psychiatric Association and the National Mental Health Association.

Last year, over 90,000 Americans participated in the screenings.

Every year, between 17 million and 20 million Americans spiral into depression — a feeling of sadness and hopelessness that they can't seem to shake off. It is estimated that one in five U.S. adults experiences an episode of depression in their lifetime. Symptoms such as sleep disturbances, fatigue or restlessness, difficulty concentrating and changes in appetite often accompany depression, which can be caused by imbalances in key brain chemicals, stressful life events and as a side effect of certain drugs or illnesses.

You can find a screening site near your home by calling (800) 573-4433 or by checking the project's Web site at <http://www.nmisp.org>. There are 3,000 screening sites — at clinics, hospitals and more — across the nation. At the screening sites, you can fill out a questionnaire to help determine if you suffer or ever have suffered from depression. You can also learn more about the signs of suicidal feelings, get information about depression and suicide and talk with a mental health professional.



The MIT Graduate Student Council

office: Walker Memorial, 50-220 (above the Muddy)
phone: 253-2195
website: www.mit.edu/activities/gsc
email: gsc-request@mit.edu

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS

"WRITING A WINNING BUSINESS PLAN"

DR. EDMUND DUNN
Executive Director, MIT Enterprise Forum, Inc.
Wed., Nov. 10, 6-7:30pm, Room 3-133

"COMMUNICATION & PRESENTATION SKILLS"

PROFESSOR LORI BRESLOW
Director, MIT Teaching and Learning Laboratory
Senior Lecturer, Sloan School of Management
Wed., Dec. 1, 6-7:30pm, Room 3-133

For description of each event and speaker profile refer to the web page
<http://www.mit.edu/activities/gsc/Committees/ARC/PDS/pds.html>

October 5 — 12

5 Muddy Charles Pub Board Meeting*

6 General Council Meeting *

* @ 5:30 in 50-220 (above the muddy)
All graduate students are welcome. Food is provided.

The next issue of the GSN will be published on Thursday, Oct. 7. Don't miss it!

P.R. & Marketing Gurus.....

Want to put your skills to use while helping us?

GSC's Publications and Publicity Board is looking for talented people to help with on- and off-campus liaison and advertising.

Project-based work. We emphasize creativity, motivation, and people skills. Wonderful opportunity to build network, get to know interesting people, and sharpen your skills. Email yingli@mit.edu.

The Muddy Charles Pub is now pleased to offer quality wines by the glass!

As always, every Wednesday night there is free jazz at the Muddy Charles Pub too!



OPINION

Increase Athletics Funding

The Tech criticizes MIT's recent decision to eliminate all junior varsity sports team and to limit participation in varsity sports. With this blow, MIT only continues to reaffirm its lack of commitment to improving student life at MIT.

Editorial

The administration's decision to allow athletics funding to stagnate for a ten year period is the direct cause of the cuts to the many teams MIT prides itself on fielding. Even prospective freshmen are informed that our 41 varsity sports are the most of any university in admissions recruiting material.

Proportionally, athletics funding is only a drop in the bucket of MIT's entire budget. Directing large amounts of capital to the construction of new buildings at the same time student programs such as athletics are being cut gives the strong impression that external, physical structures are more important to the administration than ensuring the happiness of students within those structures. Once again, the administration has demonstrated that it is loath to realize the importance of directing funds to projects that benefit student life.

Athletics are an oft-used avenue for stress relief and

relaxation at MIT, and students who don't make their varsity teams of choice often fall back on junior varsity to provide the same extracurricular effect. As the cutbacks include reducing, in some cases halving, the number of members on varsity teams, many students are left without options, other than the large, but much less rigorous, intramural sports program, for competitive sports at MIT. *The Tech* applauds the athletic department's efforts to preserve the valuable intramural program and their efforts to maintain varsity sports over the years despite much needed budget increases.

The Department of Athletics has also claimed that the cuts were motivated by Title IX, a federal gender equity regulation. The most crucial issue is not Title IX but rather the lack of sufficient athletics funding. MIT was already in compliance with Title IX prior to the new cuts. Additionally, athletes with whom *The Tech* spoke said that when they were informed of the cuts, the issue of Title IX was never raised.

It is *The Tech's* belief that current athletics funding is woefully inadequate. MIT should remedy the situation quickly and nourish the starving Athletics budget.

Letters To The Editor

Physicians Respond to DAMIT

As members of the Medical Department concerned with student health, we want to comment on the pamphlet "Drugs at MIT: A practical guide for the intoxicated engineer", published anonymously and distributed to students in our community.

The pamphlet is a thoughtful and well-informed document. The authors provide accurate information on the chemistry, pharmacology, and effects of most of the mind-altering substances available to students here and elsewhere. The editorial position taken by the authors is responsible, stressing the value of safety and health. We share the authors' position that the substances, if used at all, should be used carefully, and that knowledge is the best protection from their potential harm.

With this in mind, we would like to make some specific and general points. We agree that cocaine and heroin cannot be used safely for recreational purposes and should be avoided completely. LSD and other powerful psychedelics have unpredictable effects. Even when used in the company of friends, they can precipitate self-destructive impulses. In recent years, almost half of the successful suicides at MIT have been associated with LSD. Ecstasy may very well cause brain damage, the pamphlet says. The authors suggest Prozac may protect against this potential damage. But it is too soon to know whether the SSRI medications are indeed protective or whether long-range effects may still occur. Other more esoteric substances described in the pamphlet are certainly risky to take as the authors indicate and should be avoided.

General information about a substance cannot predict its impact on an individual. Drug quality, the presence of contaminants or excipients, and user factors like fatigue, body weight, and nutritional status, can alter the effects of any of the agents (including alcohol) described in the pamphlet. It is even more important to know that the drugs are often taken by students for relief of stress, depression, anxiety, and other forms of psychological distress. As physicians, we are concerned about vulnerable people. The pamphlet underestimates the potential negative effects of mind-altering substances when they synergize with a preexisting emotional disturbance. For example, the authors dismiss the "amotivational syndrome" associated with marijuana as not valid. Yet we see students whose primary problem is depression turn to marijuana

instead for relief and render themselves dysfunctional. The same is true of alcohol. Students who are familiar with current concepts in medicine know diseases are as much due to the vulnerability of the host as the virulence of the agent.

Our mission is to help students get the most out of themselves and MIT. To us, the use of powerful mind-altering substances for recreational purposes and self-medication constitute an unacceptable risk. We also know that risk-taking may be less of a concern for some young people than it is for us and that all too many people think that adverse events occur to others but not to themselves. So we believe a guide to responsible drug use is not complete without a friendly warning from us that what is sauce for the goose may not be sauce for the gander, and that you, the individual student, may be the gander.

Peter Reich, M.D.
Mark Goldstein, M.D.
William Kettyle, M.D.

An Offensive Advertisement

I was frankly appalled after opening to page 20 of the October 1 issue of your paper to continue reading what seemed an important article on a drugs pamphlet, only to find a very large two-color ad for egg donors decorated with a baby carriage. It is hard to say what offended me more: the presence of the ad in an MIT student publication, or its wording.

There are many aspects of egg donation that are highly questionable and in my opinion ethically disturbing. The essential transaction itself, which involves the selling of a fundamental building block of human life is admittedly not new; it is part of a fast-growing industry along with such other procedures as sperm donation, surrogate pregnancy, and other techniques that involve the transfer of other people's genetic material to infertile couples. I have had problems with both the legality and morality of these procedures for some time. The costs and risks involved in egg donation raise the stakes even further.

While the procedure is legal — and thus running the ad is perfectly within your rights — many gray areas remain, including those concerning the rights of the parties involved. Far from being enlightened and progressive, egg donation could arguably be viewed as the exploitation of low-paid women, encouraging them to undergo a protracted and often

painful procedure which could easily cause permanent damage to their bodies in exchange for a high sum of money.

For the millions of living, breathing children around the world who are in need of parents, this way of helping infertile couples — the processing and manufacturing of babies to order — only further diminishes their chances. Obtaining half a prospective baby in the form of an egg involves just as much if not more unknowns (despite the screening process) as adoption.

Moreover, the terms of the ad, which appeals only to women who are highly intelligent (measured in SAT scores), physically fit, and have a healthy "lifestyle" to be "compassionate" (to the tune of \$50,000?), are offensive and disturbing to me personally, and doubtless others like myself who fit into the desired categories. I find it offensive to be regarded as a source of supply for the acquisition of wealthy people, who do not consider being compassionate themselves to one of the millions of already-made children out there in need of adoption.

And having just returned to campus from nine years living in Germany — genetic engineering is only one area of its Nazi legacy — I need hardly explain what kind of disturbing associations this wording evokes. Granted, the ad was generous enough to include "all hair and eye coloring". How tolerant.

Clearly it is your right to decide which advertisers to run. However, I would have thought *The Tech* would be more careful about giving so much space to such a problematic undertaking. To regard it as progressive would be an arrogant misconception.

Francesca Rogier G

Another Option for Women

In a recent article addressing safer sex practices, ["Sex@mit.edu — Tips for a Safe and Enjoyable Sex Life", October 1] author Cristina Roussel comments that "if the guy refuses to wear a condom women have a lot of options." Yet she forgets the most important option: simply refusing, in turn, to have sex with him. Any guy who is so disrespectful of his partner's body and health as to put that partner — male or female — at risk in such a way has no business having sex with anyone, regardless of what alternate methods of birth control a female partner, in that case, may be using.

Whitney Erin Boesel '02

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A More Sensible Drug Policy

Regulation, Not Prohibition, Answer to Nation's Drug Woes

Michael J. Ring

There are very few issues in American politics that generate such hyperbole and draconian rhetoric as our nation's drug policy. For the past twenty years, the typical tough-on-drugs tripe has been a staple of political debates and campaigns.

But in the latter half of this decade have come a few chinks in the armor of the drug warriors, openings which should force us to rethink this nation's war on drugs. Propositions allowing for the use of medical marijuana have passed — in some cases by overwhelming margins — in Alaska, Arizona, California, the District of Columbia, Oregon, Nevada, and Washington. The always-outspoken Reform Party governor of Minnesota, Jesse Ventura, has suggested decriminalizing drugs such as marijuana and treating possession of these substances as a civil infraction, much like a speeding ticket. But Governor Gary Johnson of New Mexico — a Republican, no less — has upped the ante further, calling for the legalization of marijuana and heroin. The 2000 elections will no doubt bring even more referendum on legalizing or decriminalizing drugs.

The war on drugs is a failure. Illicit substances are still widely available all across the country. While overall rates of illegal drug use have declined, deaths from these drugs have increased in recent years to 9,000 annually. Most frighteningly, drug use among teens — the group most vulnerable to the dangers of illicit drugs — is on the rise.

This failed war has been an expensive boondoggle. Federal anti-drug spending has ballooned from \$1.5 billion in 1981 to \$17 billion this year. State and local governments will waste another \$20 billion on this doomed effort.

Even worse, most of this budget has gone not to education or research. The majority of this money has been spent on law enforcement, prisons, and the other cruel instru-

ments of prohibition. Author Dan Baum notes that of 1.1 million people arrested in the United States in 1990, about 264,000 — almost 25 percent — were charged with possession of marijuana. No wonder our courts are strained and our prisons overflowing. Between 1990 and 1995, as the average jail sentence for drug crimes nearly doubled (47.1 months to 85.4 months), the average time served for violent crimes actually declined (125.4 months to 92.3 months). Nearly 400,000 men and women are jailed in this country as nonviolent drug offenders.

The answer to the war on drugs is not prohibition but regulation. The legalization of several substances under certain bounds specified by the government is the best way to control drug use in this country.

First, regulation reduces the awful toll of deaths caused by the underground improper use of many substances. DAMIT — Drugs at MIT — recognizes the need for this new approach in the wake of the death of Richard Guy '99. Regulation emphasizes an education policy, one which informs potential users of the risks and hazards of each drug and gives them instructions insuring the safest possible use.

Second, regulation destroys the corrupt underground economy of drug trafficking. Allowing limited means by which substances may be legally available ends the need for a black market.

Third, a more sensible drug policy frees billions of dollars, money which can be used to combat truly violent and dangerous criminals or be put to any other use society wishes.

In the early part of this century, many people felt that alcohol was so dangerous that they successfully lobbied for a constitutional prohibition on its manufacture. Their efforts only drove drinking underground into

speakeasies. Additionally, the prohibition was a golden opportunity for organized crime to expand its reach and grab control of liquor trafficking. After a little more than a decade, the American people realized prohibition of alcohol was a failure and chose government regulation over an outright ban. When will we learn from the past and realize that government regulation is the best way to control drugs today?

Prohibition of the more benign substances, such as marijuana, makes absolutely no sense. Marijuana is not physically addictive and arguably poses less danger to the user than alcohol and tobacco, two legally available drugs. While marijuana should be subject to legal controls similar to those of alcohol and tobacco, no one's interests are served by its prohibition. The government has many, many more fundamental interests to pursue than locking up as criminals those who simply enjoy an occasional joint.

Some drugs, such as cocaine, crack, and heroin, are so dangerous as to preclude any thoughts of legalization. But the conduct of government drug control needs to change here as well. Rather than focusing on costly punishment schemes, society should redouble its efforts to educate people about the use and risks of these drugs. As groups such as DAMIT recognize, fully informing users about the associated hazards is

the most sensible anti-drug policy. At the very least, this open information minimizes the number of people driven underground into unsafe scenarios, and may cause many users to think twice about their habits. These tactics will pay far more dividends than the current witchhunt of non-violent drug users.

After billions of dollars wasted and hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people incarcerated as a result of America's draconian drug policies, it's time for a change. Let's advance a reasonable drug policy based on regulation and education as the best way to fight the war on drugs.

Debating The Naked Emperor

Guest Column
Dan Geer

You don't get to be the Naked Emperor unless you can raise money; keeping those non-profit profits rolling in is most of what it is about. If you are brought in from the outside, it's the only thing. Even an outsider Naked Emperor knows that the alumni and alumnae are where the money is — why else get BankBoston to flaunt that "...students had started 4000 companies by 1994, generating 1.1 million jobs and \$232 billion in sales"? But, in an interview with this paper, our Naked Emperor said "there has not been the same level of tradition and expectation of giving back that's become inculcated in people from the Ivy League universities." Well, pardon me.

For about a decade now, our Naked Emperor has blamed our lack of socio-financial refinement on one thing — that we alumni and alumnae have demonstrably deeper attach-

Therefore, I challenge you, Charles M. Vest, to debate; Buckley-Lerner rules, any time, any place...

ment to our living groups than to his fundraising office. Hence, in nearly-genuine MIT engineering style, the problem statement becomes: Make sure tomorrow's alumni and alumnae have nothing to have allegiance to except the *Pater Familias*. The living groups are now the enemy in proportion to their ability to take care of themselves, the enemy in proportion to the degree with which their members bond without need for our Naked Emperor. Democratically, this is as true of East Campus as it is of any house on Bay State Road.

How else can you explain that on the one hand, our Naked Emperor tells *The Boston Globe* that the freshmen dorm is a pure if sad response to Mr. Krueger's death while he tells the Alumni and Alumnae IFC that the freshmen dorm has nothing to do with Mr. Krueger, a mantra his messengers repeat with relentless regularity. A word to the wise: "Tell 'em what they want to hear" only works when there is no one taking notes. At MIT, we always take notes.

Our Naked Emperor must figure that the graduate students are lame and easy marks since flogging the freshmen is at their expense, housing-wise. Yeah, this can be spin doctored, but unless our Naked Emperor plans to spend his way out of a problem of his creation, the grad students lose. Again.

Our Naked Emperor's decision is a lose, lose, lose, lose, lose decision: it makes things worse for freshmen, freshmen, dormitories, fraternities, upperclassmen everywhere, and super worse for graduate students. No group of students is advantaged. This is eating your seed corn and your small children both.

It is rightly said that all that is required for evil to triumph is for men of good will to do nothing. I am an alumnus of both MIT and what our Naked Emperor calls "the old red brick institution up the street." For five years, I ran the systems development that produced Athena. Companies I've started figure in that 1994 report on what we alumni and alumnae do, and I am proud of it. I've been active as an alumnus longer than our Naked Emperor has been here and I will be here when he is gone. I speak for many, many, many loyal alums from dormitories and FSILGs alike when I say that our Naked Emperor is in the weeds, that if our Naked Emperor thinks that making more people like me and us is a bad idea, he should transfer to Antioch.

Therefore, I challenge you, Charles M. Vest, to debate; Buckley-Lerner rules, any time, any place so long as a reasonable probability exists for 1000 students to attend since, after all, the policy in question is ostensibly solely for their benefit and they are, hence, the only interested parties. To that extent, you and I are but mere proxies.

A failure on your part to accept will be taken, and not just by me, as your stipulation to the correctness of my analysis and to your arrogant disinterest in the opinions of those you would control. It will be straight from the standard playbook for frontrunners in a cynical age. If the Corporation is listening, this is not the way to get at my wallet.

Dan Geer is a member of the Class of 1972.

A Christian-Centered Creation Debate

Other Faiths Have Equally Compelling — or Unbelievable — Explanations

Veena Thomas

In the beginning nothing existed except for water, darkness, and Bumba, the great god. Bumba had a stomach ache one day and, in pain, vomited up the sun. The sun evaporated some of the water, leaving behind dry land. But Bumba was still in pain. He next vomited the moon, stars, the leopard, the crocodile, the turtle, and even men, including Yoko Lima, who was white like Bumba.

Or so the Boshongo, a Bantu tribe of Central Africa, would have you believe. Yet the Boshongo are not nearly as represented in this country as are Christians. They do not lobby state school boards in order to have the curriculum and standards changed to fit their needs and to promote their ideology. No one has asked the Kansas school boards to give "Bumba Science" equal class time as "Evolutionary Science" and "Creationist Science."

There's a Chinese creation myth, which says that in the beginning there was a huge egg filled with ying-yang, chaos, and a being named Phan Ku. Phan Ku escaped from this egg as a giant, and separated all the ying-yang into opposites. He then used a chisel and hammer to create the mountains, rivers, oceans, valleys, and the sun, stars, and the moon. He died 18,000 years later, and the fleas in his hair became human beings.

Does this mean that according to this myth, we have all evolved from fleas? No one has petitioned any of the schools to teach this version of evolution. I can see why. Those horrified by the idea that human beings have evolved from monkeys could not possibly handle the idea that we have descended from fleas from the hair of a being 18,000 years old.

Perhaps all of these creation myths sound ridiculous to you. Most of the creation

myths, whether it be the Bumba myth, or a myth that says we were all molded from clay earth, do not get much respect or attention. Then why is it that the Christian creation myth is not regarded in the same way as the rest?

If Genesis and the Christian myth of creation had been written by a primitive society deep in the rainforests or something, would we give it the same respect that many do now? Would people want to teach it in schools then? Would people write angrily in its defense? Little if any evidence has actu-

There is absolutely no reason to force a Christian viewpoint down everyone's throat. If you are going to expose someone to one religion's viewpoint, then you should expose him or her to all religions. But this should not be done in the name of science.

ally been supplied in defense of creationism. Most evidence given is not so much in favor of creationism as it is revealing gaps in what we know regarding evolution. What we do not yet know about evolution is used to promote the existence of a creator. If this is the case, it should be in favor of any creator, whether it be Bumba or Phan Ku or God.

Creationism in this country as most see it is an exclusively Christian concept. The creationism myth most commonly referred to comes straight from the Bible. What about those people not Christian? There is absolutely no reason to force a Christian viewpoint down everyone's throat. If you

are going to expose someone to the viewpoint of one religion, in the name of letting them have all the information to decide for themselves, then you should expose them to all religions, all stories.

But this should not be done in the name of science. Science and myth each have a time and a place to be taught. The job of school is to teach what we know to be true, or what is widely accepted to be true. Evolution falls under that category. Creationism does not. School can and should teach what laws and theories can be presented with substantial evidence.

Not everything presented in school is known for certain. Take history: each side in a war has its own justifications, its own side of the story. Yet religious explanations of events should be kept out of the schools at all costs.

Imagine the following scenario. A friend of mine became very frustrated with creationists' attempts to impose their viewpoints on others. He came up with his own parodied theory of why objects stay on the ground. Some people might think that gravity is responsible for everything falling downward. But in reality, he said, it's just that God grabs an object as soon as it is released into free space, and moves it really quickly towards the ground. Then God, being all powerful, simply holds down all of the objects on the ground simultaneously and makes sure that they do not float away.

Absurd, isn't it? Yet what makes this theory less plausible than the idea that God created the universe? Where does the difference lie? Why don't people believe in the alternative gravitational theory if they believe in creationism?

It's because religion is a touchy subject to so many. Science operates on a system of evidence and proof, while religion consists of blind faith. Whether it is blind faith in creationism, or in Bumba, faith has no place in the public schools.

FEATURES

An MIT Original, the Oft Replicated UROP Program Reaches 30 Years



In the Lippard Laboratory, chemistry major Nisha Singh '00 examines an air sensitive cobalt compound synthesized under an inert atmosphere.

By Matthew Palmer

Everyone at MIT knows what UROP is, right?

It is a corporate internship program in Australia. It was almost sliced in half in 1994. In the future, a student consulting company could hook you up with a two week long project. Maybe there's more than meets the eye. As UROP turns thirty, it is very much the newest old idea on campus.

The thirtieth anniversary of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) will begin February third with an afternoon celebration in Lobby 7. The day after will be "MacVicar Day" with speeches and demonstrations in honor of the UROP founder.

In 1957, Dr. Edward Land's famous "Generation of Greatness" speech helped to inspire the creation of UROP. The former president of Polaroid said, "I believe each incoming freshman must be started at once on his own

research project if we are to preserve his secret dream of greatness and make it come true." Margaret MacVicar took that idea and created what Dean of Undergraduate Research Kim Vandiver called "a hallmark of education at MIT."

MacVicar officially began UROP in 1969 with just 25 students. The idea of matching undergraduates with faculty members to conduct research was very new at the time. "[UROP] received quite a lot of press," said current UROP staff member Melissa Martin. "It was groundbreaking."

Since then, the program has grown dramatically. Over three-quarters of MIT undergraduates have participated. Administrators said UROP's popularity is due to a variety of reasons. Students can gain experience in researching and learn valuable skills. Michael Bergren, Assistant Director of UROP, said that students, "get to know faculty in a different way than in lecture." Bergren also cites the program's "flexibility." Students are free to do research in any department, regardless of their major. Martin said UROPers are "a step ahead of their peers"

because of the "real world experience" gained from participating.

Over 20 percent of those involved in a research project will publish. Others use the program to begin their thesis work. Some participants have later become MIT faculty members, and take on UROP students themselves.

The fight to save UROP

UROP has not been without its challenges. In 1994, new federal accounting rules doubled the cost for faculty to have undergraduate researchers. MIT would be forced to pay fringe benefits for students in the UROP program. Bergren said UROP officials of the time "thought it would have a traumatic effect" and would lead to large cuts in the program.

Despite the funding overhead the program has continued to thrive.

UROP goes international

Many universities have started programs similar to MIT's. Boston University gives undergraduates the chance to work directly with faculty mentors in their research. The University of Minnesota has a program where students compete for the chance to receive pay as they help a faculty member. Michigan State University offers its freshman and sophomores research opportunities, peer study groups, and guest lecturers. Among others, Washington University, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and the University of California, Irvine have similar opportunities. Not surprisingly, all of these programs are called "UROP."

The influence of UROP has traveled overseas as well. The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine in London offers a similar program with the same name. Martin and Bergren remember when they met with a representative from the Royal Melbourne Institute in Australia. They had a program called UROP, though it is more a corporate internship program.

Looking to the future

Is UROP likely to see changes over its next 30 years? "We don't want to meddle with a good thing," said Vandiver. "It's was a good idea and it still is." UROP might be growing, though. MIT will start its "Campaign for the Future" on November 6 to try and raise \$1 billion. The UROP program is seeking to increase its endowment to \$15 million, with half of that going toward paid UROPs.

The UROP mentoring program started in 1993 had "mild success" said Martin. Freshmen match up with upperclassmen during IAP and learn how to conduct research. Last year, participation in the program doubled.

On the drawing board is a new way "to make it easier for students to get their first UROP" according to Vandiver. He said a "student consulting company" would be set up. When faculty members wanted help with a short-term project, the company could match them up with interested undergrads. These projects would be for students who already had the skills needed and wouldn't last as long as regular UROPs.

This could make it easier for students to follow in the footsteps of tens of thousands before them and participate in the unique UROP experience.

Viewpoint

What do you think of school spirit of MIT?



"It's fake. People think they should have spirit, so they pretend"
Elizabeth M. Resendes '01



"I think through involvement school spirit is going to skyrocket. The class of '03 has the ability and enthusiasm to make things happen"
Patrick D. Kane '03
Class President

"I don't think there's much, but there's potential for improvement"
Raudel S. Rodriguez '03



"Hmmm. School spirit... well we all cheer for 6,270 teams, don't we?"
Kai-yuh E. Hsiao '99



"I think we have a different kind of spirit. We're proud of being here and surviving, but we're not always proud to tell people we go here"
Raymund B. Dantes '03
Suelin Chen '03
Joshua R. Neubert '03



"It's up and coming and is going to be the next big thing at MIT"
Rebecca C. Breazale '00

"I think there's a fair amount of it. It's just a different kind. The hackers have spirit, there is traditional spirit, nerd pride, etc."
Laura C. Cerritelli '03



"I think it's becoming existent. It will make MIT a better place."
Nicole A. Balli '00
Organizer of Alley Rally



"It's not very high, but it's higher than last year."
Keith V. Battocchi '02



"I'd like to think that the IFC is coming together to build a whole MIT social scene — spirit without stereotypes of FSILG's and with a better image of Greeks in general."
Michael H. Vogel '02

Compiled by Katherine H. Allen

This Week in MIT History

By Bushra B. Makiya

The dedication of the Cecil and Ida Green building occurred on October 7, 1964, the culmination of the Earth Science conference. The building was funded by a \$6 million donation by Cecil Green and was designed by architect I. M. Pei '40 and associates.

At 227 feet high, the Green building is the tallest building in the city of Cambridge and contains a weather tower, balloon shed, and experimental radar equipment. Due to its relatively central location on campus, the 23 story Green building houses many classes and departments in addition to Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Science such as Chemistry and Chemical Engineering.

Throughout the past 35 years, the Green building has been the site of many hacks and other traditional MIT activities. The annual Integrated Studies Program egg drop off the roof is just one example.

One of the most famous Green Building hacks was in 1993 on the Fourth on July, when hackers turned the top row of windows in the Green building into the world's largest sound meter. The meter was keyed to the radio and featured "cyclon scanning" light patterns, "IHTFP" in morse code, and one dimensional tetris in addition to light meter and a display complementing the fireworks.

In front of the Green building in McDermott court stands the "Great Sail," a sculpture created to lessen the wind tunnel effect cause by breezes from the Charles, making it easier to get through the revolving doors at the foot of the building. It was designed by Alexander Calder in 1965. The sculpture was built in France and then reassembled here under his direction. It is 40 feet tall, weighs 33 tons, was made from 35 pieces of sheet metal, and is held together by 3,000 pounds of nuts and bolts. The sculpture was dedicated on May 7, 1966.

Pei, a Chinese architect, designed other buildings at MIT including the Dreyfus Chemistry Building (Bldg. 18), the Landau Building for Chemical Engineering (Bldg. 66), and the Wiesner Arts and Media Technology Building (Bldg. E15). In addition, he designed the John Hancock Building in Boston, the west wing of the Museum of Fine Arts, and the entrance to the Louvre in France.

After 30 Years, Programs Not So Alternative

ESG Alums Celebrate 30 Years

By Katharyn Jeffreys
FEATURES EDITOR

The Experimental Study Group celebrated its thirtieth anniversary this past weekend with staff, current ESG students, and alumni of the program. The former ESG participants shared stories of life at MIT and ESG in the 70s and 80s, as well as asking many times "What ever happened to...?"

ESG was, as its name suggests, very experimental in its conception. Today, according to George J. Carrette '81, this progressiveness has decreased. "MIT has so many programs now. It's much harder to be experimental." He attributes this to the "institutionalization of innovative things." ESG has found a system that works, which reduces the need to try new methods.

This system allows freshmen to study the mainstream core material within the context of traditional lectures or as independent study. The program is very flexible allowing students to experience large and small class sizes covering topics in almost any academic area. The pace of classes is tailored to each student such that a topic a freshman covered in high school will be skipped, and a topic the student struggles with will receive special attention. This pace allows students to work outside the boundaries of the traditional MIT semester, moving quickly or slowly through a subject as necessary.

Many alumni cited this feature as the best aspect of ESG. Doug May '77 told the story of the last ten days of his freshman year. He had finished his classes, and decided to use the final weeks to learn the entire 8.02 curriculum. After 18-22 hours of studying a day, he was ready for the final. The professor was skeptical of his retention of the material, and wrote a special final for May. It consisted of one question: Re-derive Maxwell's equations for initial principles. "I actually did it and was very pleased," said May.

In addition, ESG provides discussion-oriented seminars, Friday luncheons and weekend trips as a forum for interaction between the freshmen and their peers and professors. The program also has its own common area which includes a lounge, kitchen, and computer room ideal for relaxing and studying. The alumni noted that this bonding was very important. "ESG was basically my family when I was here," said Robert L. Pyron '76. Another ESG alum, Dave Stefanovic '78 met his wife when they were both freshmen in ESG. They brought their young daughter, one of the first "pure" ESG children to this weekend's festivities.

Events for alumni and current students included discussion forums, speakers, a concert, and a banquet. Downtime was spent lounging in the ESG common area, snacking on cheese and crackers, and watching the next generation of ESG students crawl on the floor, playing with the programs puzzles and building blocks.

ESG currently consists of 45 freshmen, 15 sophomores, 10 staff members and 20 upper-class tutors, who are former ESG participants. The tutors are available not only for academic help, but nourishment, providing both services on Tuesday and Thursday nights at the ESG "Grindstone Nights."

ISP: Humanities, Hands-on Experiences

By Aaron Mihalik
STAFF REPORTER

Each of the alternative freshman programs can be beneficial for new students, but the Integrated Studies Program provides a unique method of learning.

ISP students are required to take the HASS-D offered within the program. This HASS-D incorporates classroom learning with special hands-on exercises. "It's all focused on technology," said Debra Aczel, the ISP program administrator. "The idea is that if you can't really learn about technology unless you try your hand at doing it." Throughout the year students will learn about different technologies and then do hands-on exercises in weekly workshops.

One of these workshops is focused on the Japanese Samurai. The students study about the Samurai and how the metal is worked to make a samurai sword, said Aczel. Then, for their hands-on workshop, students take a try at some blacksmithing.

Peter Dourmashkin who teaches 8.01x and 8.02x in the mainstream curriculum, also teaches in the humanities course in ISP. There are benefits from having a physicist's perspective in a humanities class. "When they are talking about time," said Aczel, "they can talk about the theory of relativity, and then they can go in to a workshops and take apart a clock and see how a clock really and truly works." Also, because it is a humanities class, students look at time "from a philosophical view and see what people historically had to say about time."

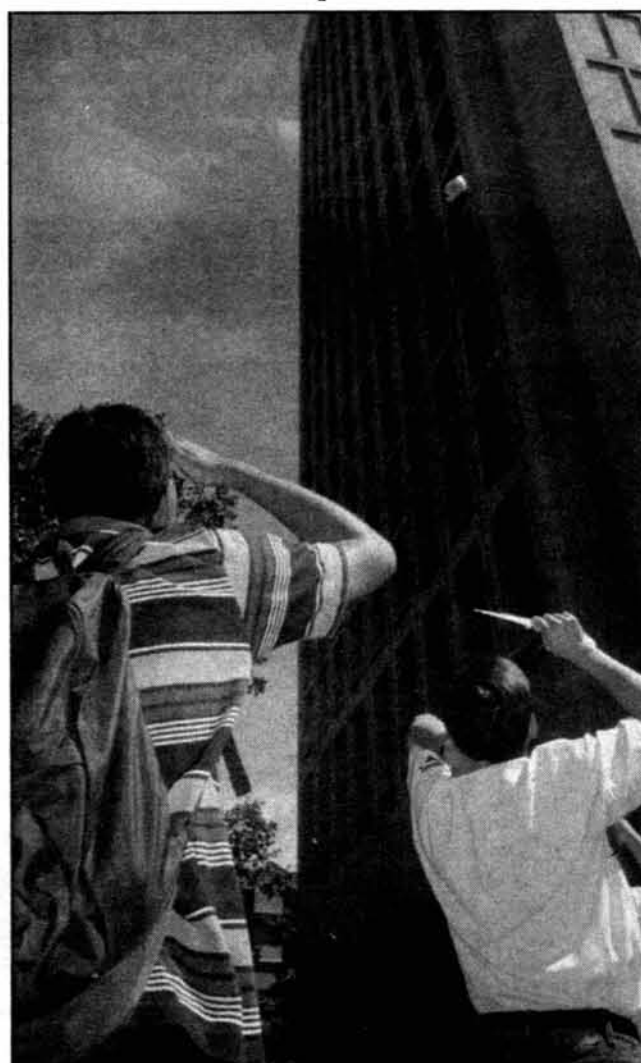
ISP offers one HASS-D subject each semester and recitations for many of the freshman classes. Freshmen who enroll in the ISP HASS-D subject are also encouraged to take the recitations in ISP.

Like other freshman programs, ISP allows students to learn in smaller groups. "Students come in and we give them a lot of attention," said Aczel. "We provide tutors for them and follow them as closely as we can." ISP is focused on providing a "more personal, smaller approach" to learning compared to the mainstream freshman lectures.

ISP provides its students with a series of guest speaker lunches. The topics that are discussed vary greatly, but often "it's related to what they are doing in class," said Aczel. "Sometimes it is just someone we think is doing something interesting."

Students are also offered a chance to pass their Phase I writing requirement. "We have been working very hard at having a strong communications component" to our classes, said Aczel. "Students can pass Phase I by doing well in the writing part of our course."

Although the courses are aimed mainly at freshman, ISP can sometimes offer spots for upperclassmen in the spring. Enrollment is limited to 40 students.



TECH FILE PHOTO
Integrated Studies Program hosts the annual Egg Drop off the Green Building during Orientation Week.

Concourse Stresses Learning in Small Groups

By Sonali Mukherjee
STAFF REPORTER

Imagine that you are a freshman entering MIT, and you've just started your first day of classes. You're standing in the middle of the infinite corridor, studying your ostentatiously fluorescent green Hitchhiker's Guide in a desperate attempt to figure out where 26-100 is so you can get to your 8.01 lecture—which is scheduled to start in thirty seconds. You run into the lecture hall, out of breath, and plop into the nearest available seat. Then you gaze down over sea of heads until you finally spot the lecturer—thirty rows down. While many freshmen experienced this on September 8th, others approached their first rendezvous with MIT academics in a very different manner.

Meet Concourse, an alternative first year program for freshmen at MIT. Concourse offers a limited number of freshmen the chance to do all their classes in a personal and comfortable environment, as opposed to the anonymity many people feel in large lecture halls in the mainstream curriculum. The program began twenty-nine years ago in a joint effort between the School of Engineering, Science, and Humanities to create a program that would allow freshmen to experience academics at MIT in a manner that would be conducive to learning and comprehension. While the sixty-three students currently enrolled in Concourse are being taught the same material as other freshmen, they also have exclusive opportunities to learn that material in an extraordinary manner. However, they still have the same problem sets to do.

"Concourse is great," says Tilke M. Judd '03, a current participant. She describes the program as a large support system where the whole Concourse community binds together to help each other learn, whether it be working on problem set, attending rigorous nightly tutorials, or studying for exams. Concourse offers many of the classes most freshmen take, but some have an interesting twist.

For instance, Concourse Chemistry is a novel blend of 5.11 and 3.091 which prepares students for Organic Chemistry. SP.345, otherwise known as Problem Solving in Science and Technology, is a class offered exclusively to Concourse students during IAP that takes the physics and mathematics taught during the fall semester and re-teaches it using enigmatic puzzles. The instructor, Professor Yuri B. Cherynyak, put many of these puzzles into a book entitled *The Chicken from Minsk*, which he co-wrote with Concourse Chemistry Professor Robert M. Rose.

Another special class, SP.344 or Problems in Electricity and Magnetism, is taken concurrently with 8.02 to reinforce topics taught in the class.

Concourse has a reputation for being very rigid in its academic focus. However, this is a characteristic that appeals to many freshmen and attracts them to the program. For Kristin A. Tappan '03, a combination of small classes, personal attention, and a coordinated schedule made the program just right for her needs. "It was something that made the big change to college classes more manageable. It's really nice to have an organized schedule."

Judd also noted the manner in which Concourse classes are arranged. "All the classes are one after another, without any dead space in between. We don't waste an hour or so trying to decide what to do in between two class periods."

John R. Malave '03 also appreciates the way that Concourse is set up because it does not conflict with Navy ROTC, a large commitment of his. "It's like it's own little school with morning classes that you have finished around noon," he said. Malave is one of the few students at Concourse that take one class in the mainstream curriculum, but he finds the ambiance of the program more to his liking. "I have found it a more relaxing and helping environment."

Despite the set schedule, Concourse students and faculty have very good relations because they associate with each other on a more intimate level than students and professors in the mainstream curriculum. Examples of this are the "Chemistry Breakfasts" and "Physics Breakfasts" where students awaken at the bright and early hour of 7:30 a.m. for the chance to eat and converse with their professors on unusual topics in their respective fields. By having these breakfasts, "you get to know your professors on a more personal level," says Malave. "They get to know you as more than just a face in a class."

Concourse's alternative teaching style has continued to attract many freshmen to its classrooms in Building 16. With distinguished and skilled professors, dedicated undergraduate tutors, and inquisitive freshmen ready to assimilate themselves into the all-encompassing world of MIT, this program brings a fresh sense to the idea of preparing students for the next four years. Tappan says her Concourse instructors, "they're very helpful, and they put in a lot of time, effort, and patience to help us."

Fifteen Participate in New MAS Freshman Program

The Media Arts and Sciences Special Freshman Year Program was started this year, welcoming fifteen freshmen into the progressive and creative world of the Media Laboratory. Students take traditional chemistry, physics, and mathematics classes, with recitations being held through MAS. Participating freshmen take a Freshman Advising Seminar in the lab during the fall term, and two MAS classes totalling 18 units in the spring term.

"We have seen is that there is a segment of the MIT undergraduate populace that is hungry for more contact with the research topics addressed within the Media Lab," said Alex P. Pentland, academic head of the Media Lab when the program was formalized late in 1998. "By linking [mainstream courses] with hands-on research experience in relevant areas we can significantly enrich the freshman year experience."

The program "takes the community of students who are already here" at the Media Lab and formalizes it, said V. Michael Bove '83, a principal research scientist at the lab. "Basically, [we started the program] to provide a bit more structure for freshmen" involved in the Media Lab.

One of the spring classes, Fundamentals of Computational Media Design (MAS.110), demonstrates the use of computers in the

arts. The other, Introduction to Doing Research in Media Arts and Sciences (MAS.111), as its name suggests, allows freshmen to discover first hand the many projects currently underway while learning methods of research and presentation. This class is intended to be a companion to a UROP that freshmen will be helped to obtain in the Media Lab. The UROP will be taken for credit during the Spring.

MAS program may be step to major

This program differs from the other alternative freshman programs in that it draws the focus into one academic area. This emphasis allows the students to see the relevance of the core classes in the current topics of interest within the Media Laboratory. The freshmen program may be a stepping stone towards an undergraduate major in MAS. A Media Arts and Sciences major is currently only awarded at the graduate level.

The limited curriculum also does not allow participating students to place out of classes using AP credit. This is the first year of the program in an experimental five year run. Five years will allow the program to demonstrate how many participating students decide to return to MIT for graduate school.



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TechCalendar

TechCalendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. *The Tech* makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and *The Tech* shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event. Contact information for all events is available from the TechCalendar web page.

Visit and add events to TechCalendar online at <http://tech-calendar.mit.edu>

Tuesday's Events

12:00 p.m. — **The Reconstruction of Scientific Knowledge: From Personal Conviction to Collective Acceptance** — Kenneth Caneva, University of NC at Greensboro. Dibner Institute Lunchtime Colloquia. Rm. E56-100. Please call if you plan to attend: 253-6989, dibner@mit.edu. More info: Call Trudy Kontoff at 253-6989. Email kontoff@mit.edu.

12:30 p.m. — **Beyond This Point There Be Dragons: Beyond Incipient Clathrate Hydrate Formation Conditions.** — Prof. E. Dendy Sloan, Colorado School of Mines. Sponsored by 10.978 Seminar. Rm. E40-298. Lunch will be provided. More info: Call Gillian Kiley at 253-3401. Email gkiley@mit.edu.

2:30 p.m. — **Non-uniform flow from a point source** — Vakhtang Poutkaradze, Department of Mathematics — University of New Mexico. Sponsored by Physical Mathematics Seminar with Department of Mathematics. Rm 2-338. Refreshments will be served at 3:30 PM in Room 2-349. More info: Contact John Bush at 253-4387, bush@math.mit.edu.

4:00 p.m. — **Clocked Storage Elements** — Hamid Partovi, Advanced Micro Devices. Sponsored by MTL VLSI Seminar. Rm. 34-101. Refreshments in Room 34-101 at 3:30 p.m. More info: Call Debroah Hodges-Pabon at 253-5264. Email debb@mtl.mit.edu. <<http://www.mtl.mit.edu/>>.

4:15 p.m. — **MIT's Micro Air & Space Vehicles** — Prof. M. Drela and Prof. A. H. Epstein, MIT. Gas Turbine Fall Seminar Series. Room 31-161. Refreshments 4:15p.m. Lecture 4:30p.m. More info: Call Lori Martinez at 253-2481. Email drag-onl@mit.edu.

7:00 p.m. — **Weaving the Web: The Original Design and Ultimate Destiny of the World Wide Web by Its Inventor** — Tim Berners-Lee, Director, WC3 Consortium; 3Com Founders Chair, MIT LCS. Sponsored by authors@mit with MIT Laboratory for Computer Science. Rm 34-101. "Berners-Lee reaches beyond the common soundbytes of our industry to define how the Web is dramatically impacting the very course of humanity." — Jeff Papows, CEO Lotus. More info: Call at 3-5249. Email authors@mit.edu. <<http://mitpress.mit.edu/bookstore/events/>>.

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. — **Chi Alpha Campus Meeting.** Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship will be sponsoring a series on the book of Revelation at our weekly meeting. There will be time for worship and fellowship as we study the Bible. PDR 3, Student Center. Sponsor: Chi Alpha Christian-Fellowship.

Wednesday's Events

11:00 a.m. — **Wavelength Division Multiplexed (WDM) Communication Systems** — Martin Zirngibl, Lucent Technologies, Bell Laboratories. EECS /RLE - Optics & Quantum Electronics Seminar Series. Rm 34-Grier Room B. On November 3, on this Date only, Lecture will be held in 36-428 (RLE Conference Room). More info: Call Erich Ippen at 253-8504. Email ippen@mit.edu.

12:00 p.m. — **The British Strategic Defense Review** — Captain Peter Hore, Royal Navy, United Kingdom. Security Studies Program Seminar Series. Rm E38-615. Bag lunch, refreshments will be provided. More info: Call Lynne Levine at 253-0133. Email llevine@mit.edu. <<http://web.mit.edu/ssp/>>

12:10 p.m. — **A linkage between decadal climate variations in the Labrador Sea and the tropical Atlantic Ocean** — Jiayan Yang, WHOI. Physical Oceanography Sack Lunch Seminars. Rm 54-915. More info: Call Markus Jochum at 3-32322. Email markus@ocean.mit.edu <<http://www.mit.edu/~mjochum/sack.html>>.

4:30 p.m. — **Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?: Panel Discussion on Multiculturalism & Feminism** — Susan Okin, Martha Nussbaum, Abdullahi An-Na'im, Homi Bhabha, , editor, Stanford; U.Chicago; Emory; U.Chicago. Sponsored by MIT Kendo Club. Wong Auditorium.

5:00 p.m. — **China Forum Lecture: US and China Relations Today** — Ambassador Shen Guofan, Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations. Sponsored by MIT Japan Program. Rm 10-250. Oct 6, 5:00 P.M., Bldg 10-250, Free and open to the public. More info: Call MISTI-China at 258-7331. Email china@mit.edu. . 5:15 p.m. — **Bayesian approaches for misaligned data layers and the modifiable areal unit problem** — Professor Alan E.

Gelfand, University of Connecticut. Sponsored by Statistics Seminar with Department of Mathematics, Rm 2-105. Refreshments will be served at 4:45 PM in Room 2-349. More info: Call Marc Genton at 253-4390. Email genton@math.mit.edu

7:00 p.m. — **What Private Equity Investors Are Looking For** — John Dean, Panel Moderator, CEO Silicon Valley Bank. Sponsored by MIT ENTERPRISE FORUM, INC. Kresge Auditorium, This is a panel discussion featuring six leading investment experts who present different perspectives on what it takes to interest venture investors. Registration starts at 6:00 pm. More info: Call Paul Lingard at 617-253-0015. Email plingard@mit.edu. <<http://web.mit.edu/entforum/www/SBS/registration.htm>>

Thursday's Events

12:00 p.m. — **MIT Chapel Concert: Quintessential Brass.** Works of Rimsky-Korsakov, J.S. Bach, Farnaby; and Shostakovich. Admission 0. MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

12:00 p.m. — **Moving to Boston: Some Tips for International Newcomers** — Anne P. Copeland, Ph.D., The Interchange Institute. Sponsored by Family Resource Center with 10.978 Seminar. Rm 16-151. More info: Call Family Resource Center at 253-1592. Email frc@mit.edu. <<http://web.mit.edu/personnel/www/frc/>>.

3:00 p.m. — **Experiences in Interactive Expression** — Chris Janney '78 MsVS, CAVS Research Fellow 1978-90, Research Affiliate 1990-94. Experiences in Interactive Expression (part of "Special Topics at the CAVS" MAS 879). MIT Museum Bldg, 390. Visiting artists who use digital media and interactivity or audience participation in their work, will focus in depth on one piece, with a quick overview of his/her work, followed by discussion. More info: <<http://cavs.mit.edu/seminar/mas879/interact.html>>

4:00 p.m. — **Lift-and-Project: Recent Progress** — Egon Balas, University Professor, Carnegie Mellon University. Sponsored by Operations Research Center. Rm E40-298. Seminar followed by Refreshments in Room E40-106. More info: Call Alp Muharremoglu at 253-7412. Email alp@mit.edu. <<http://web.mit.edu/orc/www/>>.

4:00 p.m. — **"Does Size Really Matter? Miniaturization in Fluidic and Chemical Microsystems"** — Greg Kovacs, Department of Electrical Engineering, Stanford University. Sponsored by Division of Bioengineering and Environmental Health (BEH) with Boston Area MEMS Society., Kresge Auditorium, Little Theater. Refreshments in Lobby of Kresge, Little Theater. More info: Call Kerry Rose, BEH at 253-1712. Email kprose@mit.edu. <<http://web.mit.edu/beh/>>.

4:00 p.m. — **Convective destabilisation by a tropopause fold** — Morwenna Griffiths, Reading University. Sponsored by MIT Atmospheric Science Seminars. Rm 54-915. More info: Call at 253-0136. Email ddlucas@mit.edu. <www.paoc.mit.edu/MASSseries.html>.

Friday's Events

1:00 - 11:00 p.m. — **Media In Transition: An International Conference.** This final event of the Media in Transition Project aims to establish a broad-gauged discussion of our emerging computer culture in the perspective of ancestor technologies and older media. See web site for details. Sponsor: Comparative Media Studies.

7:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. — **MIT Anime Club Showing.** 7:00 Slayers Next 9 - 11 (subtitled); 8:45 TBA; Yu Yu Hakusho 6 - 7 (subtitled). Free! Stop by anytime and bring your friends. E51-335. Sponsor: Anime Club, MIT.

7:00 p.m. — **Film: Dr. Akagi.** Featuring contemporary Asian Film Directors Series. Admission 2.50. 26-100. Sponsor: MIT Japan Program.

7:00 p.m. — **The Color of Fear Movie Screening.** A breakthrough film about racism; it explores the complexities of ethnoracial difference, power and community. Awarded "Best Social Studies Documentary of 1995" and featured on the Oprah Winfrey show. 4-237. Sponsor: Undergraduate Association Committee on Multiculturalism.

10:00 p.m. — **Film: Dr. Akagi.** Featuring contemporary Asian Film Directors Series. Admission 2.50. 26-100. Sponsor: MIT Japan Program.

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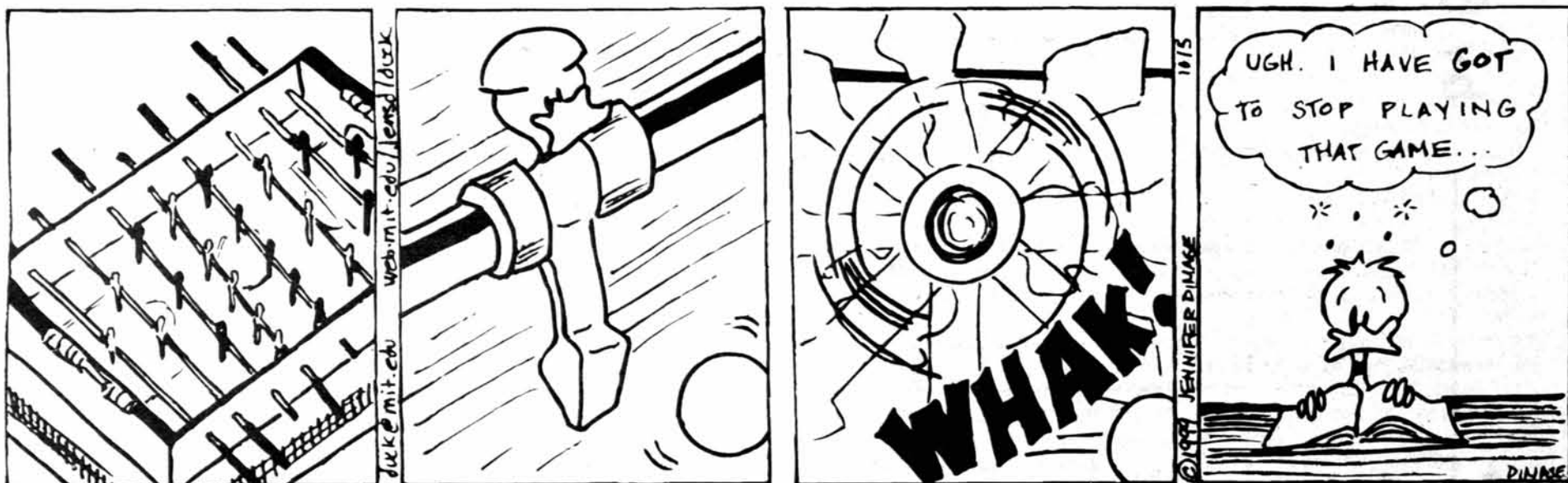
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COMICS FUN PAGES

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Down with Science

by Jennifer DiMase



the crass rat

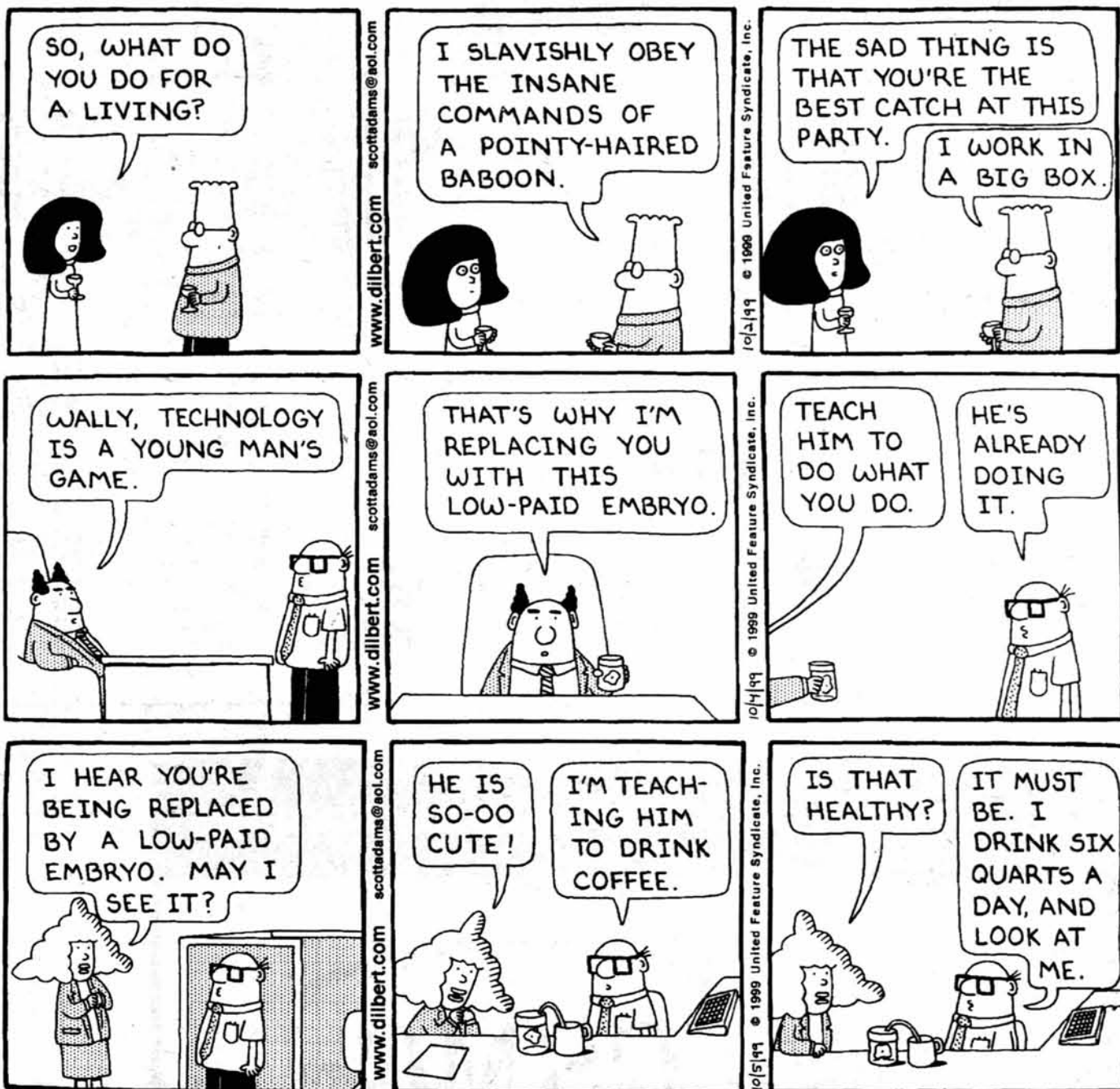


Tired Soles

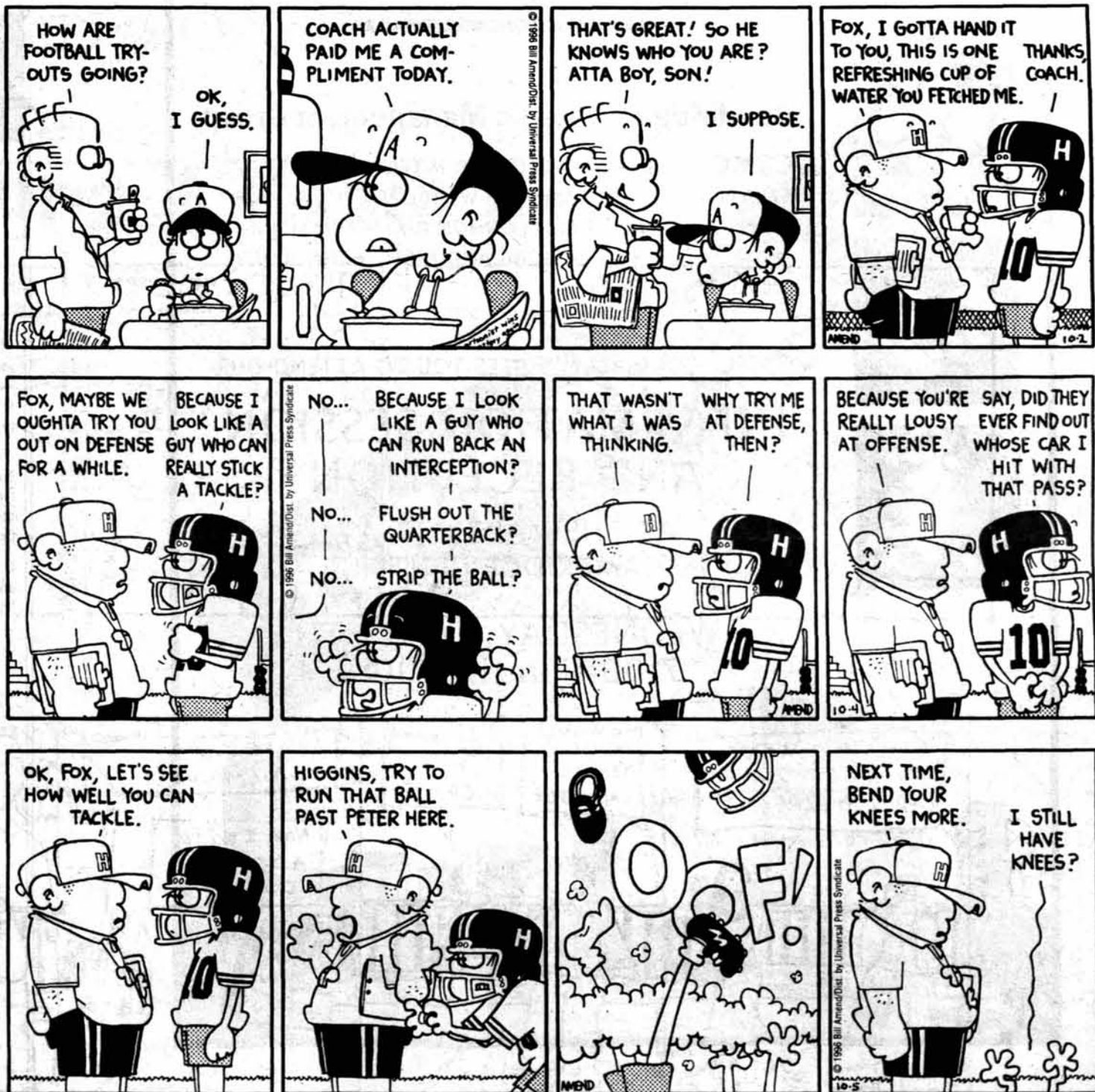
BY PAVID



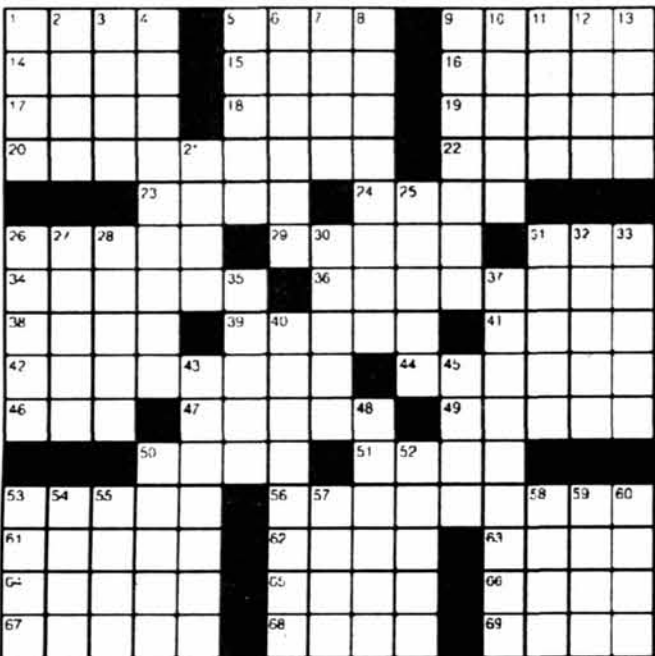
Dilbert® by Scott Adams



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Crossword Puzzle



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- ACROSS
- 1 Killer whale
 - 5 Females
 - 9 Tramps
 - 14 Lima's country
 - 15 Fable
 - 16 Rub out
 - 17 Med. school subject
 - 18 Vicinity
 - 19 Nimble
 - 20 Main course
 - 22 Gallantry
 - 23 Friends
 - 24 "The Virginian" author Wister
 - 26 Overzealous
 - 29 Jack of no-fat fame
 - 31 Teachers' org.
 - 34 Ultimatum words
 - 36 College financial supporters
 - 38 Ta-ta, Giuseppe
 - 39 Binge
 - 41 Mata
 - 42 Choral compositions
 - 44 Treated with malice
 - 46 CIA forerunner
 - 47 Seeger and Sampras
 - 49 Eat away
 - 50 Irritated
 - 51 Legendary bowman
 - 53 Squabbles
 - 56 Main course
 - 61 Distribute
 - 62 Young lice
 - 63 Hautboy
 - 64 Korean capital
 - 65 Out of the wind
 - 66 Seine tributary
 - 67 Fry briefly
 - 68 Massachusetts city
 - 69 Low fat
- DOWN
- 1 Translucent gem
 - 2 Russo of "Get Shorty"
 - 3 Rugged rock
 - 4 Aviator's aide?
 - 5 Buy time
 - 6 Torment persistently
 - 7 Grade sch.
 - 8 Carried on ocean waves
 - 9 Halt, at sea
 - 10 Church instrument
 - 11 Bondsman's outlay
 - 12 Christiania, today
 - 13 Nostradamus, for one
 - 21 Passing crazes
 - 25 Walks in water
 - 26 Golfer Mediate
 - 27 Opera highlights
 - 28 Judge Roy and Orson
 - 30 Intrinsically
 - 31 Peachy-keen
 - 32 Goofed up
 - 33 Theatrical comment
 - 35 Odorous compound
 - 37 Maelstrom

- 40 On dad's side
- 43 Disciple
- 45 Bombard
- 48 Island, NY
- 50 Corpulent
- 52 Ruhr Valley city
- 53 Talk back
- 54 Supplication
- 55 Baseball brothers
- 57 Greasy
- 58 NY theatrical award
- 59 "Madame"
- 60 I ament loudly

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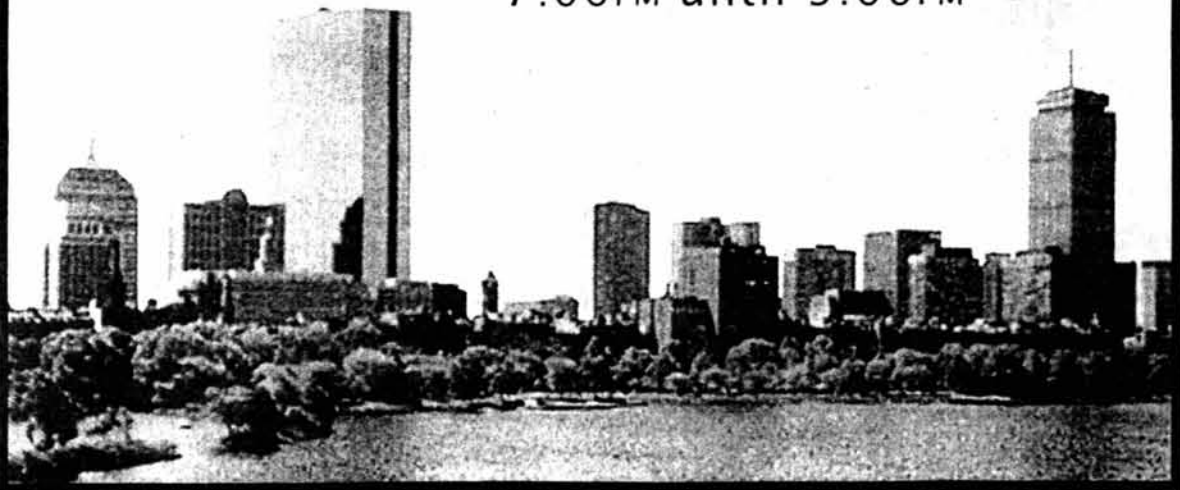
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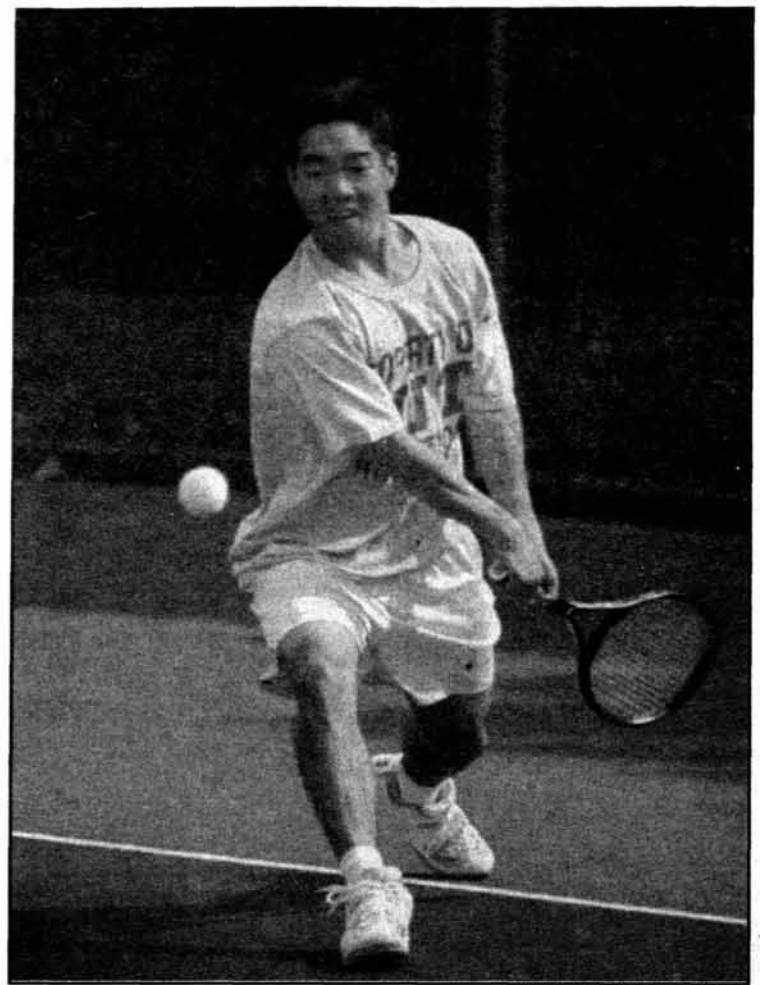
Thursday, October 7th
6:00 P. M.
Room 4-149

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Monday, October 25th
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Monday, November 8th



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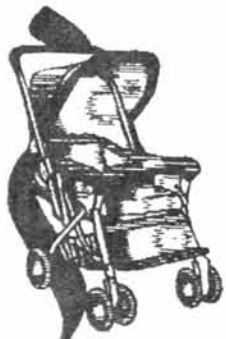
Friday October 22
Somerville Theater/Davis Square
Pre-performance discussion at 6:00pm
Performance at 8:00pm

DAVID SEDARIS

Sedaris found an audience after being asked to read his "The SantaLand Diaries" on NPR a few years back, describing his stint working as a Santa's elf for Macy's department store. Sedaris has the kind of conspiratorial voice that makes you think you're getting the scoop over the phone from your best friend. It's that voice--and delivery--that puts Sedaris in the top tier of "must-see" authors who cruise into town." (From the November 5-11, 1998 issue of Metro Santa Cruz.)

Saturday October 16
Sanders Theater/ Harvard Square
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Aldrin Pushes Mars Landing in Lecture

By Ryan Ochylski
MANAGING EDITOR

As part of the MIT/Harvard Mars Week program, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, ScD '63 spoke Saturday on the feasibility of launching a manned Mars mission in the near future.

Aldrin, the lunar module pilot for *Apollo 11* astronauts and the second man to walk on the moon, focused on the methodology of putting men on Mars. He offered a number of solutions concerning the types of propulsion systems and launch windows that could be exploited, and cited a goal of arriving on Mars by 2014.

Commercial support vital

Aldrin told many anecdotes, focusing on the differences between the space program of the 1960's and today. A major example he used was the contrast between disasters and the amount of time it took to return to space following each disaster. After the *Apollo* fire, NASA launched again within a year. After the 1986 *Challenger* explosion, NASA waited three years before putting another shuttle into orbit. The conclusion he drew from this example was that the government would never again support the space program as it once did.

Instead, Aldrin presented "space hotels" as a solution to the funding problem. He offered an answer to the question of which paradigm the hotels would operate under: hotels could serve the very wealthy few or be tourist magnets for the masses. His answer was the question — "Why not both?"

Aldrin championed the idea of a semi-commercial venture as the solution to the financial problems of putting men on Mars. The technology already exists for the most part, he said, but the funding is lacking; the way around this obstacle is to combine government funding with private sector tourism ventures.

Mission possible by 2014

The talk's second half featured a technical slideshow with details on the types of rockets that Aldrin proposed for the joint venture. The single biggest necessity is the use of reusable rocket stages instead of single-use rocket stages like *Saturn V*'s. The costs associated with new rocket stages for every trip would completely defeat the purpose of a semi-commercial venture.

While discussing the various propulsion solutions, Aldrin also analyzed the mathematics behind the windows of launch opportunity, arriving at ideal times that varied. Models varied used estimates of between approximately 18 months and 24 months between leaving Earth and arriving on Mars.

Taking into account the technology, funding, and launch availability, Aldrin arrived at 2014 as the approximate date by which manned

Mars missions would be possible.

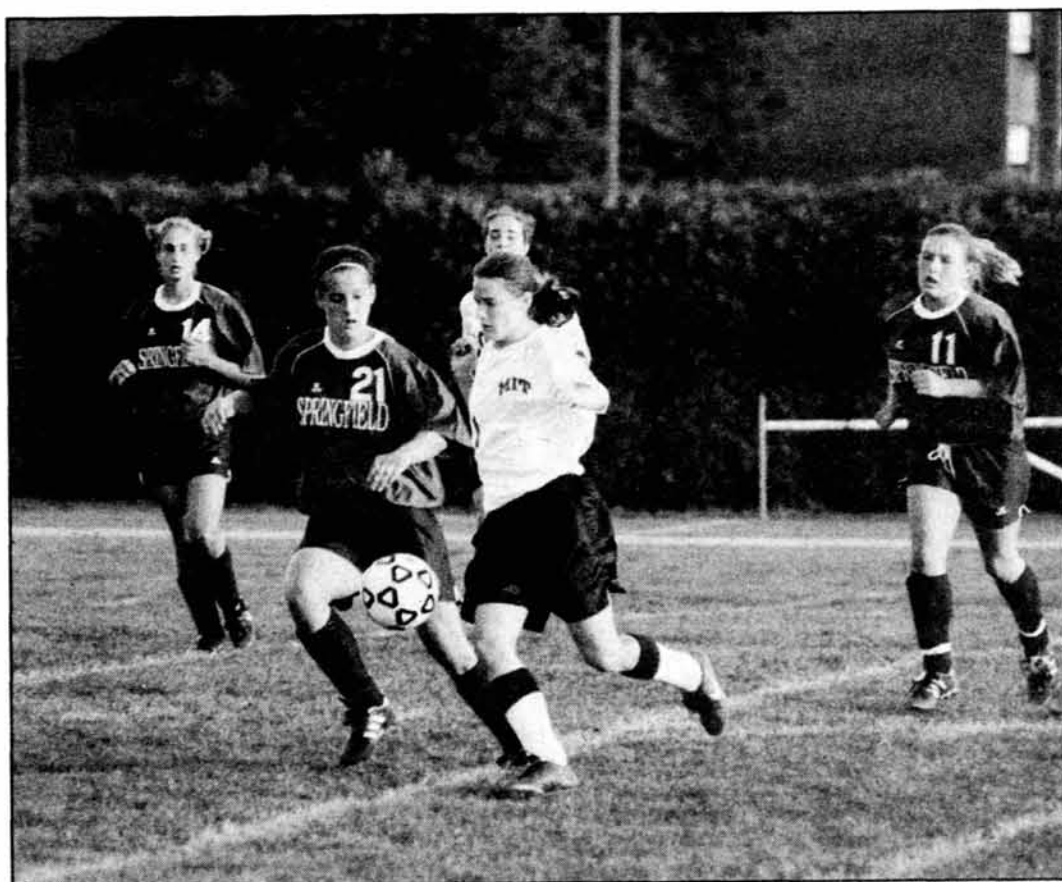
As a side note to the possible solutions he presented, Aldrin challenged the current team at MIT and Texas to beat Caltech to a definite solution.

Mars Week attracts professionals

Students as well professors and specialists from other fields attended both the Aldrin lecture as well as the other Mars Week events. Other presentations included NASA Astronaut Dr. Franklin Chang-Diaz's lecture on Plasma Propulsion Systems, Dr. Everett Gibson's take on life on Mars, and MIT EAPS Professor Maria Zuber's discussion of geology on Mars.

Also speaking was Jennifer Harris, a member of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, who spoke of robots on Mars, including a description of the recent Mars pathfinder mission, as well as upcoming unmanned Mars missions.

Mars Week is sponsored by the joint MIT/Harvard group Think Mars.



CHENG-WEI PEI—THE TECH

Sarah Mendelowitz '03 maneuvers away from an opponent during MIT's home game against Springfield College on Saturday afternoon. MIT lost the match 2-3.

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where Watteau hung a lady's
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sort of man was Fragonard?
—as if that answered
anything. Ah, yes—below
the knees, since the tune
drops that way, it is
one of those white summer days,
the tall grass of your ankles
flickers upon the shore—
Which shore?
the sand clings to my lips—
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should I know?
Which shore? Which shore?
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—Portrait of a Lady
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Additional Upgrades Planned

Card, from Page 1

businesses on the card system. "Do you want people spending their meal money, which may be obtained through financial aid, on cigarettes and lottery tickets," Berlin asked.

Although the system is currently under development and the bugs are being worked out, Cummings expressed much enthusiasm about the new system. "Previously we haven't had room for expansion, but we can now begin serious discussion with campus groups," he said.

New groups which are added to the card will pay some sort of ser-

vice charge to support the administrative infrastructure which controls the card. Student groups would probably pay a lower fee per transaction than independent businesses.

According to Cummings, there will probably be some sort of grace period while the kinks are worked out of the new system.

Berlin is currently investigating how to best integrate new organizations into the MIT card system. "We need to evaluate their interests and figure how logistically we can roll it out," he said.

Future upgrades planned

Cummings said that the

upgrades performed this summer are part of a two phase project. The second part, which will be completed some time next year, involves installing a new Windows NT server and migrating the system to the MIT network.

The upgrades, which will cost a total of \$350,000 after the next server upgrade, should provide a drastic simplification from the previous system.

The old system, which relied on a point-to-point protocol, required a wire to run from the server in E32 to each register. "This [upgrade] creates lots of potential. We're all kind of psyched about it," said Cummings.

Davis Has Experience

Davis, from Page 1

instead of borrowing open spaces from the public.

A proponent of affordable housing, Davis has called for increasing the percentage of affordable housing to 15 percent (from the current 14) and providing monetary assistance to those who are too wealthy to qualify for state or federally funded housing but who still could not afford to live in Cambridge.

Davis does not support rent control in the form in which it previ-

ously existed in Cambridge. "If I were to support any rent control [legislation] it would have to be different," from the previous legislation. That legislation "caused so much conflict" that it was unfeasible, she said.

History in city government

Before becoming a city councillor, Davis was a member of the Cambridge School Committee from 1988 to 1995.

She said that she is a full-time councillor working "24-7" on council tasks.

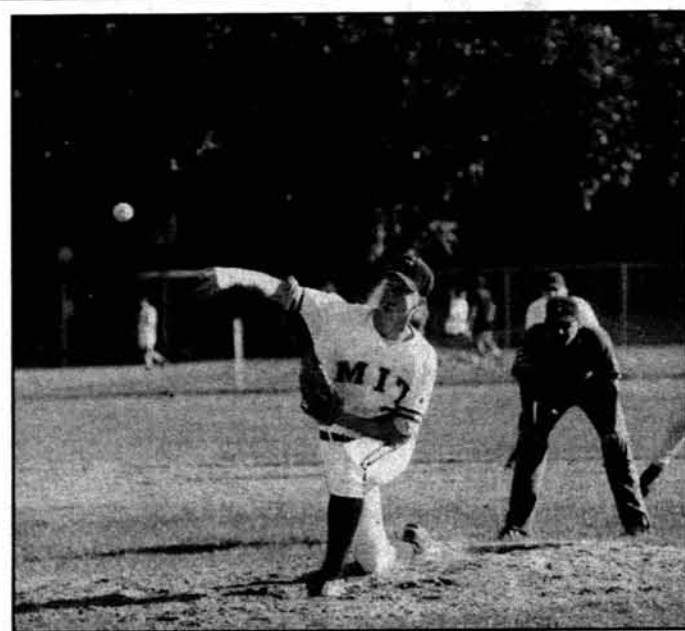
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CHEN-WEI PEI—THE TECH

Robert Wieker '03 pitches the ball to strike out a Massasolet Community College opponent. The Engineers triumphed 8-4 on Friday.

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Domecoming, from Page 1

watch a clown on stilts, and meet some of the MIT sports teams.

Nicole S. Balli '00, an organizer of Amherst Alley Rally, said that the cold left only about 35 people to view the 10 p.m. outdoor movie showing of "Dazed and Confused."

"I think for the first time it went remarkably well... Obviously there can be more participation," Balli said. "[But] I think in general people enjoyed themselves. A few people who told me they weren't expecting to have a good time said they did."

She said that in future years better advertising and advance notice of the event would help turnout.

Gupta said that "lots of different parts of the campus came together" and a "wide variety of people" from both dormitories and fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups. However, she said that better advertising and even more group involvement would help in the

future.

Most of the advertising for homecoming occurred through e-mail forwarding and flyers during the few days before the weekend festivities.

A new tradition?

This year's homecoming was sponsored by the Interfraternity Council, Dormcon, and the Campus Activities Complex program board. The money for the event, which cost about \$11,000, came chiefly from the \$50,000 large events fund. It replaces the traditional events of previous fall terms: Greek Week, Fall Festival, and the Alumni Weekend.

Most of the organizers of homecoming from this year's class consisted of seniors. But Gupta and Balli said that the graduation of the senior class would not affect the chances of having Domecoming next year. CAC could carry on the event in the future, she said.

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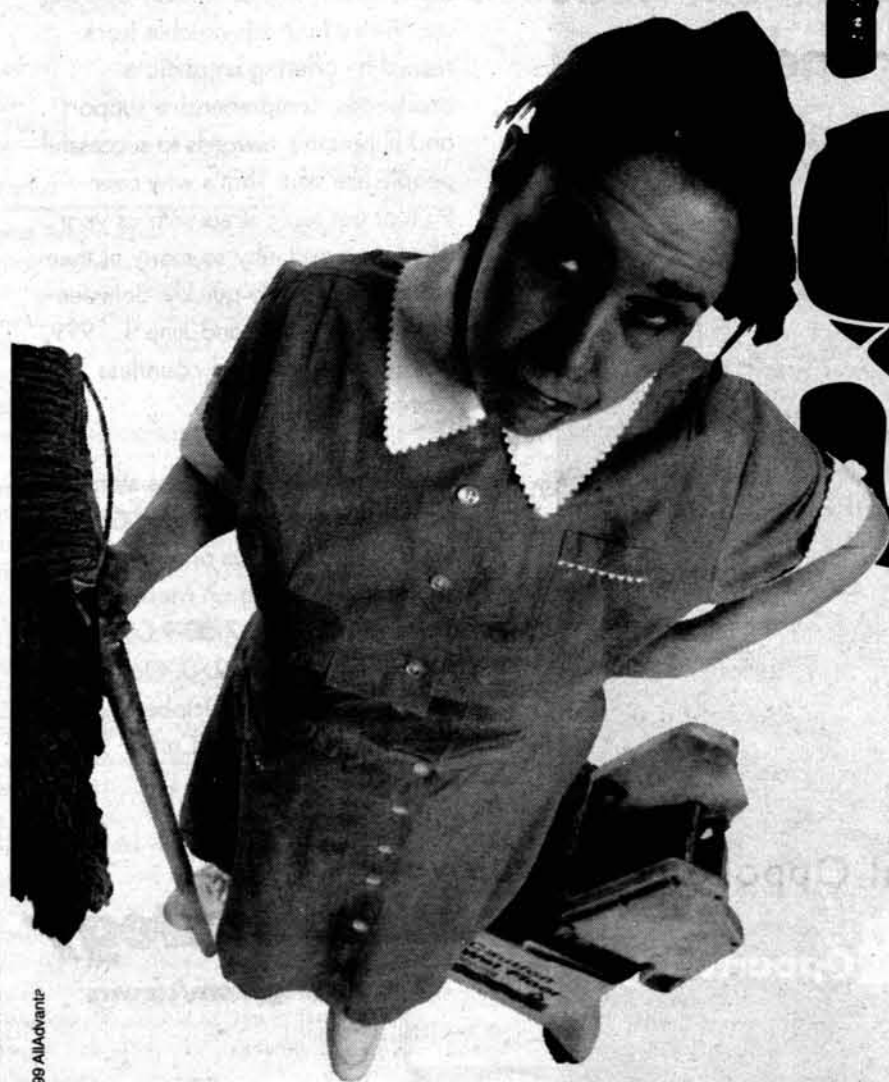
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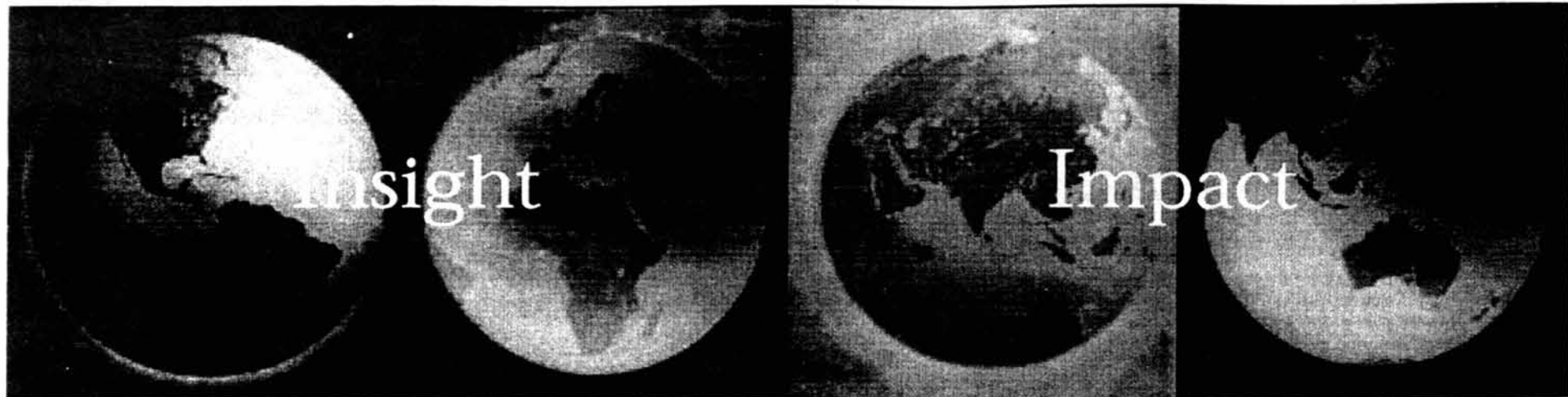
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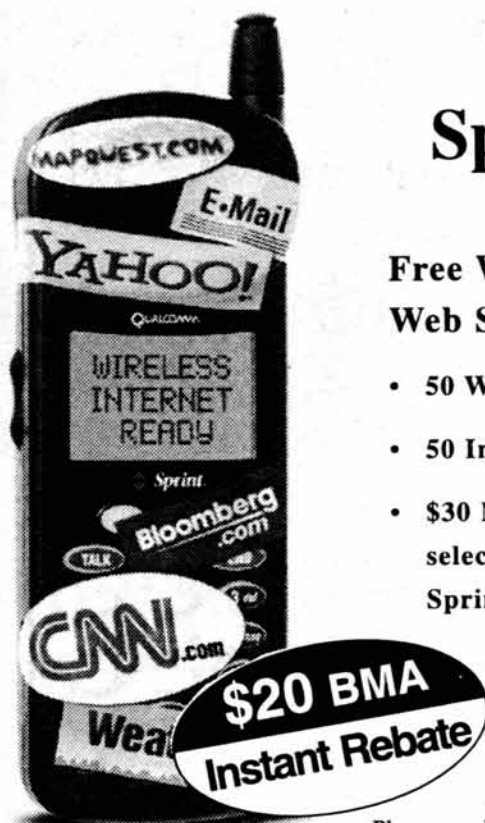
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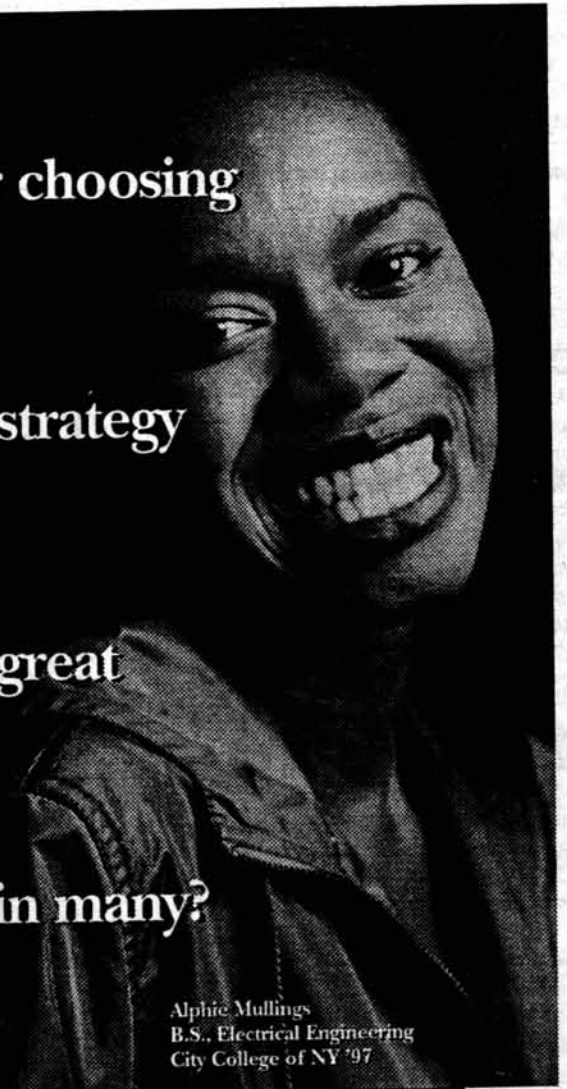
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7 pm
The Cambridge Marriott
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hosted by:
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POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Campus Police between Feb. 4 and Feb. 24. Information is compiled from the Campus Police's weekly crime summary and from dispatcher logs.

The report does not include alarms, general service calls, or incidents not reported to the dispatcher.

Sept. 13: Boston, Phi Kappa Theta, neighbor complained of persons running across roof; Cambridge, Alpha Tau Omega, pool ball thrown threw window; Bldg. 36, CD case containing several CD stolen \$200; DuPont Gym, Paul Hammond of 70 Glenn Road, Jamaica Plain placed under arrest for trespassing; Johnson Athletic Ctr., golf cart caught on fire; Whitehead, annoying phone calls; Bldg. 11, suspicious person; East Campus, annoying phone calls; 500 Memorial, student ID stolen; Bldg. E53 plaza, bike secured with a cable stolen \$450; Bldg. 5, camera stolen, unknown value; Bldg. 1, telephone stolen \$35; 33 Mass. Ave. bike secured with cable lock stolen \$750; Bldg. W59, suspicious person, trespass warning issued; Bldg. 9, report of suspicious person, gone upon CP's arrival; Mass. Ave., check an inquiry on parties arguing, check out okay; Bldg. E52, report of suspicious person, gone upon CP's arrival.

Sept. 14: Student Center, cell phone stolen from backpack, \$140; 500 Memorial Dr. employee problem; Bldg. 3 rack, bike tire stolen \$100; Mass. Ave. assist Cambridge Police with past assault and battery; MacGregor, bike secured with a "U" lock stolen \$120; Bldg. 2, suspicious activity.

Sept. 15: Bldg. 3, scam e-mail message; Bldg. W61, suspicious activity; Bldg. W31, received complaint of annoying e-mail; Bldg. 66, suspicious activity; Mass. Ave. at Albany St. assist Cambridge Police with a minor motor vehicle accident; Albany St. report of persons carrying chairs, check out okay; Boston, Lambda Chi Alpha, noise complaint, music turned down.

Sept. 16: Boston, Student House, broken into and stereo stolen \$1,600; Bldg. E56, domestic dispute; Burton, credit card stolen from room; Boston, Beacon Street, report of students walking on roof, Boston University notified.

Sept. 17: DuPont weight room, wallet stolen \$200 cash; Bldg. 6, laptop computer stolen \$2,900; Cambridge, Alpha Tau Omega, malicious damage; Bldg. 6, wallet stolen \$20 cash and credit cards; Cambridge, #6, malicious damage to modem; Bldg. E52, suspicious activity; Student Center, suspicious mail; assist Cambridge Police with minor motor vehicle accident at Mass. and Sidney Streets; Bldg. 54, report of suspicious person, gone upon CP's arrival.

Sept. 18: Kresge lot, vehicle operating at high rate of speed; Burton, malicious damage to lights; Kresge, items stolen from dressing room to include wallets and brass rat, \$370; Kappa Sigma, jacket stolen \$40; McCormick, Richard Clayter, of Pine Street Inn, Boston taken into custody on an outstanding warrant; New House, noise complaint; Boston, Alpha Epsilon Pi, report of person drinking outside, check of area all quiet; Student Center, over crowding at party, crowd dispersed.

Sept. 19: Student Center, Marcel Lauro of 510A Mystic Avenue, Somerville arrested for assault and battery; Boston, Beacon Street, three complaints of noise from people leaving a party; East Garage, report of suspicious person, area checked gone upon CP's arrival; Bexley, hit and run damage to vehicle; Vassar Street, report of suspicious activity.

Sept. 20: DuPont, check and inquiry, trespass warning issued; Student Center: ID left on table, same gone upon returning; Boston, Phi Gamma Delta, male posing as cable repair person; Vassar St. '88 Toyota stolen and found on Audrey St.; E51, moped stolen from plaza, \$250; Sailing Pavilion, wallet and \$100 cash stolen; Burton, debit card stolen; New House, student problem; Cambridge, Delta Kappa Epsilon, past larceny of bike \$553; Ashdown, backpack stolen, unknown value; Bldg. 6, suspicious activity; Student Center, check and inquiry, person issued a trespass warning; Bldg. 10, goose in building, Cambridge Animal Control captured and released same; Pierce Boathouse, female taken into custody on an outstanding warrant; Sloan Lot, malicious damage to vehicle; Bldg. W11, homeless person, refused assistance; Boston, Alpha Epsilon Pi, noise complaint.

Sept. 21: Walker, assist Boston Police with an investigation; Bldg. 56, suspicious activity; Student Center Plaza, person reports being assaulted by persons soliciting; Past larceny of wallet from Bldg. 26, \$20 cash; Boston, 1) Sigma Phi Epsilon, harassment; 2) Beta Theta Pi, camera equipment stolen, \$1,410; MacGregor, report of suspicious person; Carlton and Amherst Streets, suspicious males, trespass warning issued.

Sept. 22: Albany Garage, malicious damage to two vehicles; Bldg. 48, backpack stolen, \$75; Bldg. W16, video camera and a saxophone were stolen \$3,618; Westgate, bike parts stolen \$3; Chestnut Street, bike stolen \$290; Bldg. E15, suspicious activity; MacGregor, report of suspicious activity, gone upon CP's arrival; Alumni Pool, report of suspicious person, gone upon CP's arrival; Bldg. W34, check and inquiry, trespass warning issued.

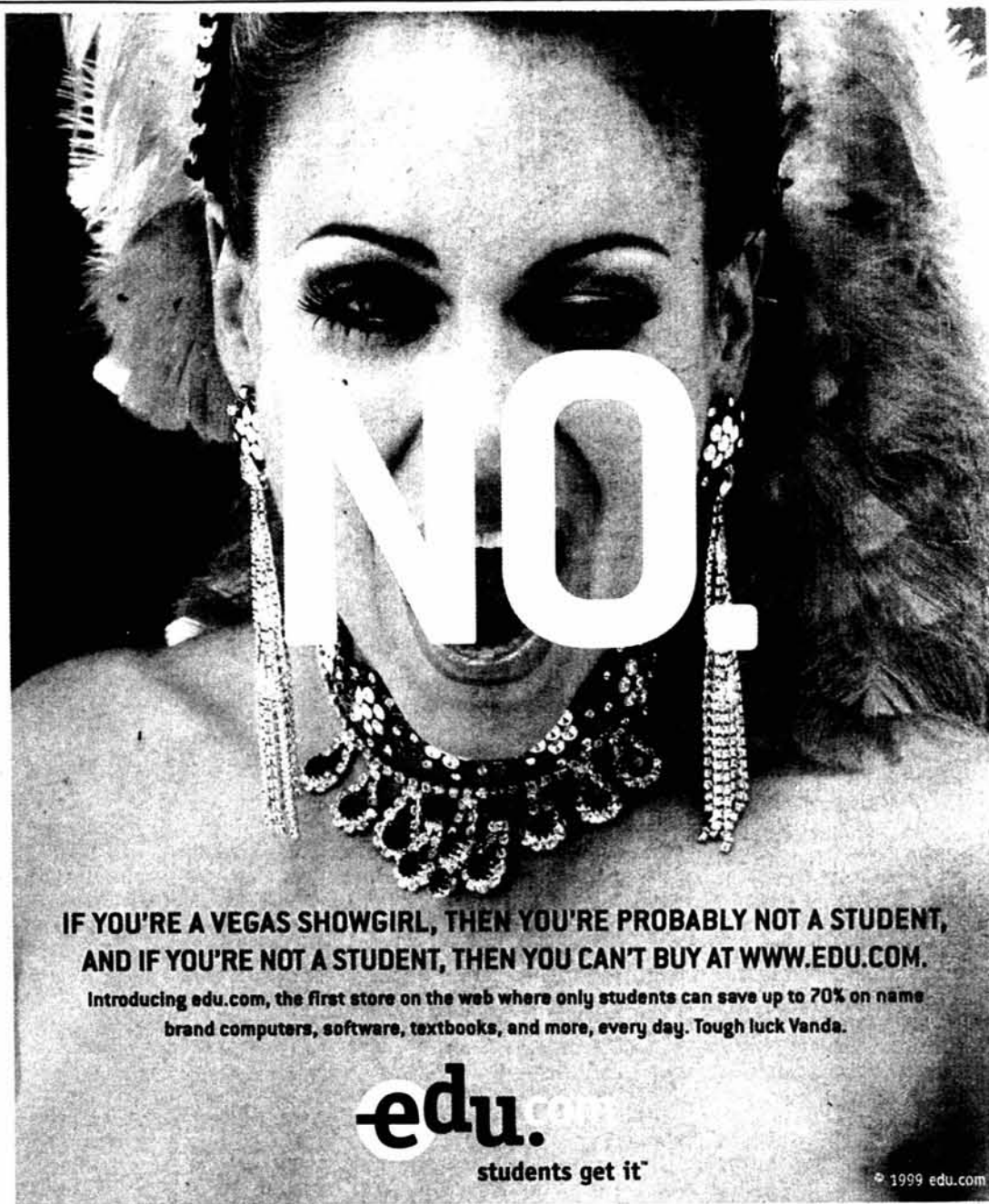
Sept. 23: Bldg. 1, report of a suspicious person, gone upon CP's arrival; Bldg. E28, report of a 911 hang-up, all okay; Bldg. NW14, possible homeless person, assisted to shelter.

Sept. 24: Bldg. E51, suspicious activity; Bldg. E23, cell phone, credit cards and cash stolen, \$102; Bldg. E19, \$100 cash and credit cards stolen; Rockwell, suspicious activity; Boston, Sigma Phi Epsilon, suspicious activity; DuPont, report of suspicious activity; Bldg. W59, suspicious activity.

Sept. 25: Student Center, 1) check and inquiry, two individuals issued trespass warning; 2) check and inquiry, individual checked out okay; Main Annex lot, noise complaint; Haywood Street, person having difficulty walking, gone upon arrival.

Sept. 26: Walker, malicious damage to a mirror; Bldg. W34, license plate stolen from motorcycle; Student Center, check and inquiry, trespass warning issued; Bldg. E17, report of suspicious persons; Baker, noise complaint; Boston, Alpha Phi, report of persons on roof; Bldg. NW14, check and inquiry, trespass warning issued.

Sept. 27: Bldg. 45, table saw stolen \$200; Bldg. W59, graffiti; Boston, Sigma Phi Epsilon, backpacks stolen \$927; DuPont, suspicious person; Memorial Dr., suspicious persons, checked out okay.



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An Open Letter to Ambassador Shen Guofan

Dear Ambassador Shen Guofan:

As MIT graduates, we welcome you to visit MIT and wish you a joyful visit. We write to you to express our extreme concerns about what's happening to innocent **Falun Gong** practitioners in China. We deeply deplore China's recent crackdown on Falun Gong. As genuine Falun Gong practitioners, we personally have had great benefits from this wonderful practice. We understand the teachings of Falun Gong based on the universal principle of **Truth-Compassion-Forbearance** are very virtuous.

As you may know, cultivation, or body-mind-spirit development (e.g. Tai Chi), has ancient roots in oriental culture. Falun Gong is a high-level cultivation system which has transcended racial and cultural boundaries and has touched the lives of countless people in more than 30 countries; some of them are: China, USA, Germany, Canada, United Kingdom, France, Russia, Japan, and Australia. It has five sets of exercises with serene movements. Through practicing "Truth-Compassion-Forbearance" together with the exercises, the practitioners have achieved physical health, mental balance, and spiritual purity (Please see <http://www.falundafa.org>). The book of Mr. Li Hongzhi (the Falun Gong founder), "**Zhuan Falun**" (Revolving the Law Wheel), and others have been translated into more than 10 languages including English, French, German, Russian, Swedish, Spanish, Korean and Japanese to name a few, and have had significant impact in the science community.

As scientists, we particularly like to share with you our understanding of profound science foundation of Falun Gong. Superstition that the Chinese government charged Falun Gong is invalid.

(1) Life sciences are the frontiers of modern sciences. Theory and method of Falun Gong exercises have helped over 100 millions practitioners worldwide achieve healthy physical and mental conditions.

(2) Mr Li's theory on multiple space-time reveals the different spaces of material existence besides the universe space that human's eyes and modern apparatus can perceive. First time in the human's history, Mr. Li's theory explicitly presents the exact form of the existence of other spaces.

(3) Science advances without morality could be harmful to the human society. Mr. Li's theory on the importance of morality on modern science and technology development has significant meaning and impacts for the directions of future sciences.

(4) Falun Gong practitioners include thousands of university professors, medical doctors, scientists, Ph.D. and master students in the United States, China, and other countries. Enlightened by Mr. Li's profound teachings and theories, many of these people have had numerous scientific achievements in their own fields.

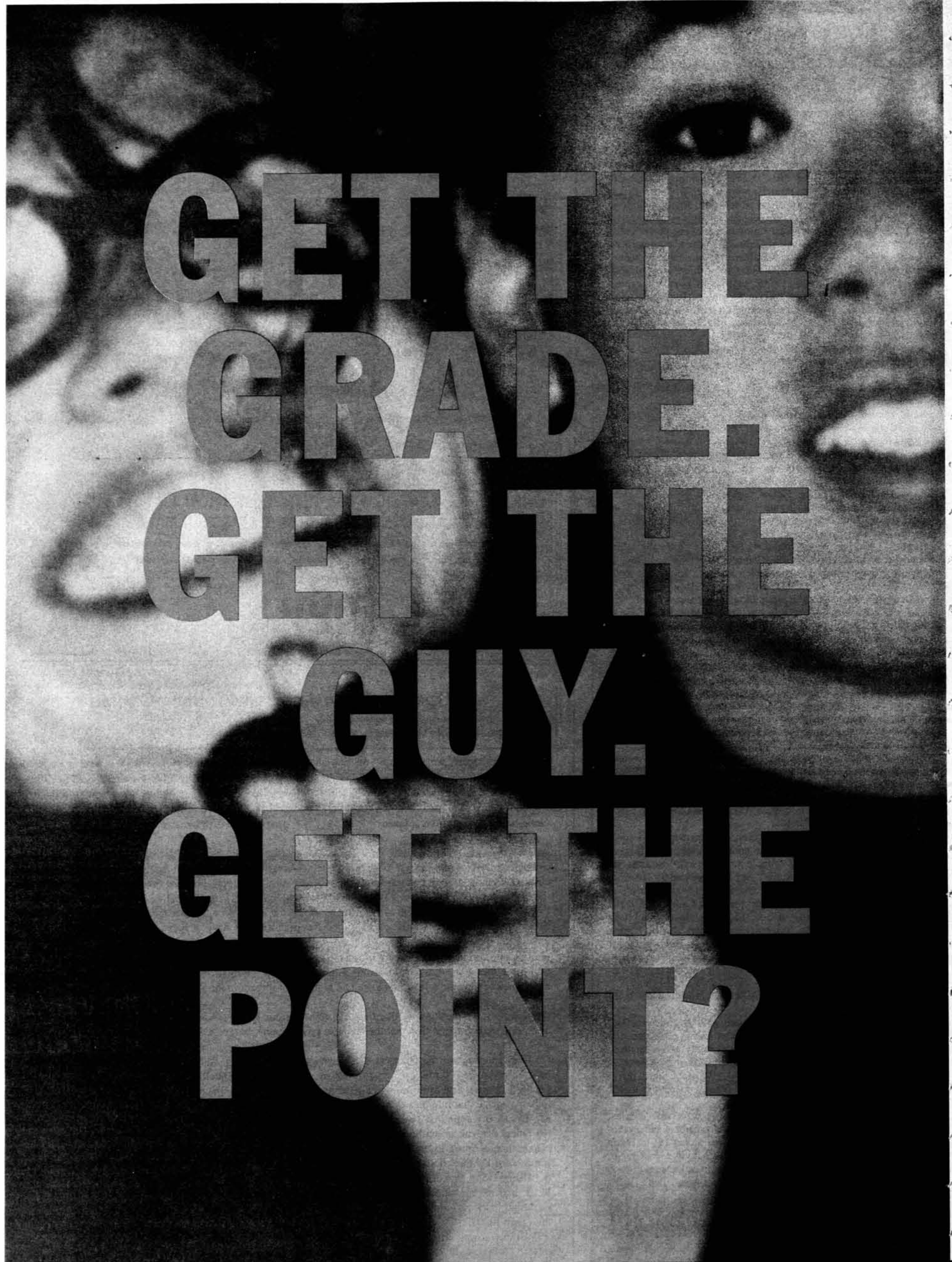
(5) Brainwashing, falsifying the facts of genuine improvement of countless practitioners, physical torture, propaganda campaign, life threat, assassination are not accepted in scientific community. Many scientists and people who pursued the truth were burned by fire and sent to exile in human history. We hope this tragedy that has already happened would be justified, the basic right of exercising, freedom of thought and expression would be regained in China. We genuinely hope what the Chinese government says would be reflected in its act.

We hope you'll bring our concerns to Chinese leaders and your colleagues. The charges against Falun Gong are based on fabricated materials and are groundless, and the decision on crackdown was made mistakenly out of misunderstandings and fear. We strongly urge the Chinese government to lift the ban on Falun Gong, to release all practitioners detained, and to rescind the order for arresting Mr. Li.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John Jaw, Ph.D. 84, Michael He, Ph.D. 96, Xiaofeng Zhang, M.S. 96, Yi Cai, M.S. 98



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